

Weekly Compilation of  
**Presidential  
Documents**



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**Editor's Note:** The President was in Houston, TX, on June 21, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

## WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

## PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, June 21, 1996

**The President's Radio Address**

*June 15, 1996*

Good morning. Tomorrow millions of Americans will reach out to their fathers in thanks. I believe being a father is the most important job a man can do. Today I want to talk with you about what our Nation can do to help fathers as they try to raise good children.

A good, strong father can make the difference between a lifetime of disappointment and anger, and a lifetime of fulfillment and good parenting in turn. Children from single-parent families are twice as likely to drop out of high school, to have a child before they're 20, to live in poverty. Children who don't have a dad at home are more likely to do worse in school than those who do, regardless of their household income.

Yet, in so many ways, being a father today is harder than it was when our own dads were young. Most fathers are working longer hours to help support their families. At the same time, as many women move into the workplace, many, many American fathers find themselves taking on even greater responsibilities at home.

So, if we want to keep the American family strong in the 21st century, we have to support America's fathers in doing their best by their children. That's why we worked hard to pass the family and medical leave law, to cut taxes for our hardest pressed working families, why we're fighting to raise the minimum wage and to make it easier for parents to pay for their children's college education, why we're fighting to protect the Medicaid that helps working parents with children with disabilities to keep working and support their children.

In addition to supporting fathers, we should expect basic responsibilities from them. That's why we worked so hard to strengthen child support enforcement. And I'm proud that child support collections are

up by 40 percent in the last 3 years. We are also urging fathers to get more involved, along with mothers, in their children's education. In fact, this summer Education Secretary Dick Riley is enlisting fathers and mothers to keep reading to their children and reading with their children through vacation.

While math and science scores have gone up in recent years, our reading scores have remained just about flat. And reading ability drops off when children are out of school. Secretary Riley's Read Write Now initiative will encourage 1 million children to keep reading, even after the school doors close. Fathers can help to build a lifetime of memories for themselves and their children by reading with them every day. I know. On this Father's Day, all those books that I read with Chelsea together are among my most precious memories.

We also have to help parents protect their children from bad influences that come from outside the home. American parents are working overtime to keep their homes safe, to set good examples, only to have popular culture make their hard work even harder. That's why we worked hard to give parents the V-chip, so they can keep excessive violence and other inappropriate material out of their young children's TV viewing, and why we have encouraged the entertainment industry to rate their TV programs. It's why we're supporting antidrug strategies to help parents keep their children drug-free.

Parents also know that, aside from television and drugs, alcohol and tobacco are two of the biggest dangers to our children. Our administration is working hard, along with tens of thousands of citizens, including so many young people in antismoking groups, to keep our children away from tobacco. Every day, 3,000 kids start to smoke in this country illegally, and 1,000 of them will have their lives shortened as a result. Our administration has proposed strong rules to prevent

the advertising, marketing, and sales of tobacco to children.

Now, some political leaders who oppose our efforts to restrict advertising and sales to children are saying that cigarettes are not necessarily addictive, even going so far as to compare the dangers of kids' smoking to the dangers of some children drinking milk. Well, that's certainly the tobacco company line. But it was the Surgeon General, Dr. C. Everett Koop, under President Reagan, who concluded nearly a decade ago that cigarettes are addictive, highly addictive. In fact, next week 130 of the Nation's top doctors and scientists are meeting to discuss how people can break free from tobacco addiction, not whether it's addictive.

So when political leaders parrot the tobacco company line, say cigarettes are not necessarily addictive, and oppose our efforts to keep tobacco away from our children, they continue to cater to powerful interests, but they're not standing up for parents and children. In fact, they're making the job of being a parent even harder. So on the eve of this Father's Day, I say to the tobacco industry, support our efforts to keep tobacco away from our kids. And I say to others in public life, stop fighting those efforts; you should be supporting them, too.

One thing parents haven't had to worry about is their kids being exposed on television and radio to liquor advertisements. For half a century, liquor companies have voluntarily kept their ads off the air for the simple reason that it was the right thing to do. So I was disappointed this week when a major company announced it would break the ban and put liquor ads on TV, exposing our children to liquor before they know how to handle it or can legally do so. After voluntarily staying away from this for 50 years, being good corporate citizens, companies are now considering changing plans. I ask the companies to get back to the ban. Pull those ads. We appreciate your good corporate citizenship, and our parents need it to continue.

Let's all resolve to make the job of being a father easier. Tomorrow we celebrate our fathers, who every day, without fanfare, or recognition, are doing the hard work it takes to be good fathers, good husbands, good citizens of our country.

To all of you I say thank you, God bless you, happy Father's Day, and thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 5:25 p.m. on June 14 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on June 15.

### **Statement on the Terrorist Attack in Manchester, United Kingdom**

*June 15, 1996*

I am deeply outraged by the bomb explosion today at a shopping center in Manchester, England, which injured scores of innocent people, some very seriously. I join Prime Minister Major and Prime Minister Bruton in utterly condemning this brutal and cowardly act of terrorism. Such viciousness deserves universal condemnation. I wish the British Government every success in finding and bringing to justice those responsible.

On behalf of the American people, Hillary and I extend our deepest sympathies to the victims and their families. Our prayers are with them. We have known the shock and pain of terrorism in our country, the horror of the sudden shattering of daily life. The bombing today underscores the need for all of us to join together to fight terrorism and violence in all parts of the world.

Last week, historic talks aimed at finding a lasting settlement to the conflict in Northern Ireland began in Belfast. The people of Northern Ireland voted to send their representatives to those talks, expressing their deep desire for peace and their commitment to democratic means of resolving their differences. The men of violence have once again tried to dash their hopes. I want the people who have so much at stake in those talks to know that the United States will stand with them in their continuing search for peace.

### **Statement on the Death of Ella Fitzgerald**

*June 15, 1996*

I am deeply saddened by the death of Ella Fitzgerald. The jazz world and the Nation have suffered a tremendous loss in the pass-

ing of someone with so much talent, grace, and class. Ella's phenomenal voice and wonderful phrasing will remain close to the hearts of Americans for generations to come. Hillary and I extend our deepest condolences to her family.

**Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Glafcos Clerides of Cyprus and an Exchange With Reporters**

*June 17, 1996*

***Russian Elections, Trade With China, and Church Burnings in the South***

**President Clinton.** Let me begin by saying how pleased I am that President Clerides is here. We want to discuss how the United States can help to promote a settlement that is fair and peaceful in Cyprus and what we can do in that regard. I intend to ask my Special Emissary, Richard Beattie, to go back to the region soon to explore further actions that the United States can take.

With regard to the elections in Russia, first, the United States applauds the fact that there was an election that, as far as we can tell, not only had a substantially high turnout but was a free and fairly conducted one. We now look forward to the next stage, the runoff between President Yeltsin and Mr. Zyuganov. We reaffirm our support for democracy and for market reforms. And we will be watching the development of events with great interest.

But this is a very significant thing for Russia to have this election. This had never happened before in a thousand years, where they elected a leader, and then they're going to have another election. And the Russian people are to be complimented, and the Russian leadership is to be complimented for supporting their Constitution and the electoral process. And we very much hope that Russia will continue to support democracy and reform.

With regard to China, as all of you know, we have been involved in an intellectual property rights dispute with China which has cost a lot of money and jobs to the United States. I am pleased that a good agreement has been reached with the Chinese which will protect intellectual property rights and

avoid sanctions and allow us to go forward in ways that will be good for the relationship between the United States and China and good for the interest of American jobs and American businesses. I think this proves that staying involved and engaged with the Chinese through the difficult times as well as the good ones is the right course of action, and I am pleased with what's happened.

I'd like to make one final comment, if I might. I'm appalled, along with all Americans, that this wave of church burnings has continued. My heart goes out to the people in North Carolina and Georgia who are affected. I am very much looking forward to the meeting on Wednesday with the Governors and the attorneys general and some other officials from the States affected, and I intend to continue to work to involve more people in this and to search for all the options at our disposal to try to resolve this matter.

But the—we need every person from every walk of life and all faiths in America to speak up against this. And the American people need to search their hearts about this. This has got to stop. This has got to stop. There is not a country in the history of the world that has valued religious liberty and valued religious expression more than the United States. This tears at the very heart of what it means to be an American. And I intend to keep working on it until we get some resolution of it.

***Russian Elections***

**Q.** Mr. President, are you surprised that the vote in Russia was as close as it was? Do you find that threatening in any way the course of U.S.-Russian relations?

**President Clinton.** No. President Yeltsin got about the vote he was predicted to get in the polls, and Mr. Zyuganov got more than he was predicted to get in the polls. But polling is inexact. And I think the main thing is there seems to have been a heavy majority of people who voted for the democratic process and for the path of reform. And that's good news.

**Q.** Have you spoken to President Yeltsin, Mr. President, or do you plan to after the voting?

**President Clinton.** I have not. I hope that we get a chance to talk. He's obviously got

a lot of fish to fry right now, and he will be doing a number of things over the next couple of days. But I'm hopeful that we will have a chance to talk. I want to congratulate him on the election, not only on the showing, the strong showing that he made, but also on the fact that he really supported the Constitution, he supported the institution of the electoral process. And the very fact that it occurred in such a vigorous fashion I think is a real credit to him, as much as any other single person in Russia. And probably more than any other single person, he wanted Russia to be a free country that picked its leaders by elections. So he's got two reasons to be happy today.

#### **Senate Whitewater Report**

**Q.** Mr. President, can we ask you about the Whitewater draft report—could we ask you about that? The Whitewater—

**President Clinton.** I have no comment.

**Q.** —about the leak over the weekend?

**Q.** Are you concerned about these leaks?

**Q.** —about the report itself, sir?

**President Clinton.** That's just standard practice.

*[At this point, one group of reporters left the room, and another group entered.]*

#### **President Clerides' Visit**

**President Clinton.** Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Let me begin by saying how glad I am to have the President here and how much I look forward to a discussion with him. Our bilateral relations are in excellent shape, I believe, and I believe they'll get stronger as time goes on. I'm anxious to see if there's anything else the United States can do to support a settlement of the matters in Cyprus in a way that is fair to all concerned. I'm going to ask my Special Emissary, Richard Beattie, to go back to the region in the next few weeks to see what else we can do, and I want the President to give me some guidance about what he thinks we can do in this regard. But I'm glad that he's here, and I'm looking forward to having a chance to visit with him.

#### **Turkey, Greece, and Cyprus**

**Q.** Mr. President, do you think instability in Turkey poses trouble for the Cyprus initiative and also for the Aegean?

**President Clinton.** The instability?

**Q.** The domestic instability in Turkey.

**President Clinton.** Well, it's difficult for any government that's not settled to make agreements, because agreements normally require some concessions by all concerned. And we hope that Turkey will be able to resolve its internal problems and establish a strong government that can effectively enter into agreement with its neighbors.

**Q.** Mr. President, will you still intend to keep your promise that 1996 will be the year for Cyprus?

**President Clinton.** Well, we're doing what we can. But we—the United States cannot control all the events in the region. If it were up to us, we would have had a peace and resolution of this a long time ago. And we'll do what we can to be a positive force there.

**Q.** Mr. President, do you consider the ongoing tension between Greece and Turkey as a problem toward a Cyprus solution?

**President Clinton.** I think it is a problem toward the Cyprus solution, and I think it is a problem generally. And both Greece and Turkey have been allies of the United States through NATO and generally, and we would like to see the tensions between the two countries lessened. We think there would be enormous benefits not only to the Greeks and the Turks but to the solution of other problems in the area. And we will continue to do what we can in that regard. And I think as the situation clarifies itself in Turkey we may be able to do more in the years—in the months ahead. But we will use the months remaining in 1996 to do what we can to help resolve the Cyprus issue and to help resolve the tensions between the two countries.

**Q.** Do you take a position on the Turkish questioning of the sovereignty?

**President Clinton.** Do you want to say anything to your own press? I think the President should be able to talk. Come on.

**President Clerides.** As you all know, I'm here at the invitation of President Clinton. And I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and thanks for the interest

the President is showing in helping to promote a solution to the Cyprus problem. We have a variety of issues to discuss, and I think this discussion should be carried out without the press. So that's all I have to say.

**Q.** Mr. President, one last question. Do you take a position on Turkish questioning of sovereignty over Greek islands, Mr. President?

**President Clinton.** No more questions.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:30 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to President Boris Yeltsin of Russia and Gennady Zyuganov, candidate for President. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

### **Statement on the Appointment of the Special Envoy for Burundi Peace Negotiations**

*June 17, 1996*

I am pleased to announce the appointment of former U.S. Representative Dr. Howard Wolpe as Special Envoy of the President and Secretary of State for Burundi Peace Negotiations. He will work closely with Ambassador Richard Bogosian who continues to serve as the Rwanda/Burundi Special Coordinator working from Washington to coordinate implementation of overall policy toward these two countries.

Dr. Wolpe will lend U.S. influence and support to efforts aimed at bringing an end to the crisis in Burundi, which has claimed more than 100,000 lives in the last 2½ years. Dr. Wolpe brings to this mission a wealth of experience gained during 14 years as a Member of Congress from Michigan, including 10 years as chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, and recently as a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution. Dr. Wolpe received his Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in political science, focusing on Africa.

### **Remarks to the American Nurses Association**

*June 18, 1996*

Thank you so much. You've made me feel welcome today. You've got my day off to a great start. And you have been a wonderful, wonderful friend and supporter of this administration in all the things we've tried to do to improve the health and welfare of the American people.

I want to begin by saying a special word of thanks to your president, Ginna Trotter Betts, for her 4 wonderful years as president of the American Nurses Association. [Applause] Thank you. I'll never forget the first time we met and talked about this. Al Gore said, you know, the president of the American Nurses Association is from Tennessee. He's shameless about things like that. [Laughter] And then we met, and I thought it was especially wonderful because she did not speak with an accent. [Laughter]

I want every American today to join with me in saluting your leadership on this 100th anniversary celebration. Our country has the finest health care system in the world, and nurses are the heart of that system.

As Ginna said, because of my dear mother, I know the hard work and the sacrifice that goes into your work. I want to thank you again for honoring my mother in 1994 with a special award in her name and for everything that you do. I learned from her, and America learns from nurses every day, the basic values that make this a great country. We know that the mission of our country should be to offer opportunity to every American, to demand in turn that every American take responsibility for making the most of that opportunity. That's the basic bargain of this democracy.

We know, too, that all of us have an obligation to see that we treat all responsible Americans with respect and with tolerance, to build a community out of all of our diversity. Today I ask for your prayers for the people who go to church in those churches that have been burned in the last year and a half and

for your support for their right to worship and live.

I also want to thank you for the support you've given us in our attempt to change the course of affairs here in America and to deal with the real issues that affect the lives of real people. I sometimes wonder when people like you, who work and live every day all across America in the heartland and get up and try to make something good happen every day, when you come to Washington, it must be like visiting a foreign country from time to time. *[Laughter]* I think it would do more good if the people who work and write here in Washington had to go out and visit you more often. I think it would change their attitude about what really matters in life.

We've been at this business of trying to create opportunity and increase responsibility and strengthen our national community for 3½ years now. There was a lot to be done 3½ years ago. We had to get our economic house in order. We had to reduce this terrible deficit and do it in a way that continued to invest in our people and their future. And when we passed that economic plan in 1993, there are those who said, "Well, this is a terrible thing. It will plunge the economy into recession. It's the worst thing in the world." It was a bitterly partisan fight; we prevailed by the narrowest of margins. Well, 3½ years later we now can see whether they were right or we were right.

In 3½ years, our economy has produced 9.7 million new jobs, 3.7 million new homeowners, 3 years of record increases in the number of small businesses, and the lowest combined rate of inflation and unemployment in 28 years. I believe we were right.

In 1994, we asked the Congress to take a serious approach to the crime problem, to get beyond rhetoric and partisan division and tough talk and to do something smart as well as tough on crime. We put 100,000 police on the streets, passed the Brady bill, passed the assault weapon ban, passed the Violence Against Women Act. There was a lot of bitter partisan rancor about it all, but we've now had a chance to see whether it works.

We are halfway through, almost, putting the police on the street. Almost 60,000 people with criminal records have been denied the right to buy handguns under the Brady

bill, which is a health issue, by the way, and an emergency room issue. We're enforcing the Violence Against Women Act, the "three strikes and you're out" act. We see that the assault weapon ban has worked to ban assault weapons but not take any sporting weapons away from the hunters and other sportsmen who were told that they were going to lose their weapons. We can see it now. We have had 3 years of declining crime in a row. We were right, and they were wrong. We did the right thing to pass the crime bill in 1994.

We have had 3 years now to evaluate the work of expanding Head Start and making college loans more affordable and passing the national service program. And we know that the more people we educate in America, the stronger our country will be and the more people will be able to find good jobs and find other good jobs if they lose the ones they have.

And we know enough now to say that we ought to do more. We ought to give families a tax deduction for the cost of college education. And we ought to make 2 years of education free after high school, through tax credits for every American to go to community college.

Today, I want to talk with you about two other issues, about how we can reward opportunities—increase opportunities and reward responsibility and build a stronger country by improving health care and by strengthening the requirements that parents be responsible in the support of their children.

For 3½ years, we have worked on these things as well. And even though we did not prevail in doing everything we've tried to do, I want you to know that I will never forget as long as I live the way the American nurses worked with the First Lady to try to give health care to all Americans. She is grateful for it, and so am I. *[Applause]* Thank you.

I thank you for standing with us when this administration became the first in American history to take on the tough issue of tobacco and the marketing of tobacco to young people. But we know—we know—notwithstanding some political voices who say this is no big deal and some people can deal with it and some can't, we know it is illegal to sell cigarettes to children in every State in the



country. But every day 3,000 underage Americans start to smoke, and 1,000 of them will have their lives ended prematurely because of it. That is something we know.

If we want to improve health care in America, why don't all those people who say that's what they want to do stand up and be counted and do what we need to do to restrict the advertising and marketing and sales of tobacco products to young people in this country? That's what we ought to do.

Let's not forget what has been done. As Ginna said, we did pass the Family and Medical Leave Act to say if you take a little time off to care for a sick child or a sick parent, you won't lose your job. It's amazing to me there are still some of the people who voted against the family and medical leave law defending their vote and saying they did the right thing to oppose it. Well, I think it was right to pass it, and a lot of American families think so, too. I never go into a big crowd of families very rarely that somebody doesn't come up to me and say, "I took advantage of the family and medical leave law."

The other day we had, in the White House, 50 families from 50 States who are participating in the Children's Miracle Television Network with all the children's hospitals in the country, these desperately ill children and their hard-working parents, almost all of them middle class people. And two families came up to me on the way out of the room and said, "I do not know what I would have done if the family and medical leave law had not been passed. I kept my job and took care of my child."

There's also some things that we have stopped from happening that you deserve a lot of credit for. I sometimes think that the majority in this Congress has forgotten the first rule of health care: first, do no harm. We have fought to slow the rate of inflation in Medicaid while preserving its fundamental guarantees. For three decades, the United States has guaranteed that poor children and pregnant women, people with disabilities, and older Americans will not be denied health care simply because they cannot afford it. That is the right thing to do.

The majority in Congress is actually insisting that we repeal this guarantee. I have said and I believe this would amount to child ne-

glect for a whole generation. That's why I vetoed that plan last year. If they send it to me again, I will veto it again.

Working with you, we have fought to balance the budget in a way that protects Medicare and honors our duty to our parents. Let me remind you that we have cut the deficit by more than half. We added time to the Medicare Trust Fund, and we're attacked by the now congressional majority for doing it.

But their proposal for Medicare would undermine our ability to hire and train nurses, would close down more hospital wings in cities and rural communities. Of course, we have to slow the rate of inflation in Medicare. My plan will secure the Medicare Trust Fund for a decade without imposing unduly high premiums on low-income seniors and without wrecking the delivery system. That is, after all, what we have to preserve if we want people to have good health care in the first place.

And while we're doing no harm, why don't we do a little good? *[Laughter]* We are working with you to improve health care access to as many as 25 million Americans by fighting for the Kassebaum-Kennedy health care bill. No worker should have to worry about losing health care if he or she loses a job. And no one should be denied health care simply because they or someone in their family has a preexisting condition.

I am working hard with the Congress, and I do want to say that I am encouraged that there are people in both parties who support the Kassebaum-Kennedy bill. In its purest form, it passed the Senate 100 to 0. All we have to do now is to get together and pass the bill, pass a good bill. I believe we can do it. I am working with the leadership in both parties to do it. But I want you to leave this town only after you have given a clear signal to Congress: Pass this bill now. *[Applause]* Thank you.

And while we're at it, one other thing we could do that would really help millions of working families is to raise the minimum wage now. And I hope we will do that. I am doing everything I can to increase opportunity for the American people, but as I said, we all know that the basic bargain in America is opportunity in return for responsibility.

We also know that where our children are concerned, the most important of America's building blocks is not a strong Government but a strong family. It is parents who must love their children and take responsibility for them. That has been the driving principle behind my efforts to reform welfare as we know it. I believe the present system perpetuates a cycle of dependency and irresponsible behavior. But I also know, having spent time in welfare offices as a Governor, that nobody wants to reform this system more than the people who are trapped in it. I want a system that promotes work, strengthens families, and encourages independence. That's why I have proposed time limits and work requirements but also child care and health care to help people move from welfare to work.

The majority in Congress often criticizes me for vetoing a bill they called welfare reform. Well, I did. I did it because it was too tough on kids and too light on work. I asked them to do better. And if they'll do better, I'll be happy to sign welfare reform legislation. Meanwhile, we will continue to reform welfare with or without congressional action.

We have worked to cut redtape for 40 of the 50 States by approving 63 welfare reform experiments. Just today, we approved a waiver for a welfare reform effort in New Hampshire which combines strong work requirements with incentives to move people from welfare to work. I have received an intriguing proposal from Wisconsin which has tough time limits but actually gives assurances—assurances—of a job and health care and child care to people on welfare. And I expect to approve that request soon.

What you need to know, all of you, is that for three out of four Americans on welfare, the rules have already changed. Seventy-five percent of the families in this country on welfare are already under welfare reform experiments approved by our administration and devised at the State and local level. That is one big reason that today there are 1.3 million fewer people on welfare than the day I took the oath of office as President of the United States.

The food stamp rolls are also down. The poverty rate is down. Teen pregnancy rates have leveled off and are actually dropping some. Work and training among welfare re-

cipients are up. Child support collections have reached a record high. But we must do more to insist on more parental responsibility. Our proposals are about giving people more opportunity and demanding more responsibility. And I reject the idea that when it comes to welfare it is only the mother who has to act responsibly. That is a false statement.

For too long we have let the men off the hook. We must insist that they do their part to support the children that they help to bring into this world. I wonder how many times nurses in this audience have seen a frightened young girl give birth to a baby alone in a hospital with the father nowhere to be seen. How many times has the hospital and the Government been left to pay the cost not only for the delivery but for the continuing care of the child? Well, two people are required to bring a child into this world, and two should help to raise the child.

Last year, I signed an Executive order that cracked down on the requirements for Federal employees to pay their child support. Three years ago, I signed a law requiring States to establish hospital-based programs to determine the father of a newborn child. Based on our first reports, more than 200,000 fathers have been identified through these voluntary hospital paternity identification programs. That's 200,000 children whose fathers can't just up and walk away. And child support collections and paternity establishments have increased by 40 percent since 1992. I am proud of that, and you should be as well.

But we have to do more. That's why, earlier today, I took executive action to strengthen child support enforcement and promote parental responsibility. First, we're putting in place a new national program to help States track parents who owe child support across State lines. Today too many parents get out of paying child support by moving from job to job, from State to State. This must stop.

Currently, 25 of our States require that when a person is hired for a job a check be made to see if he owes child support. Under this new program, we will check that information against our national database to catch deadbeats who have crossed State lines. I want every State in the country, the other

25, to give us this information so that these people who do not pay their child support have nowhere to hide.

Today I also directed the Department of Health and Human Services to require mothers who apply for welfare to provide the name of the father and other identifying information when they apply for assistance and before they get the benefits. Of course, there must be good-cause exceptions, such as those required to protect mothers from the dangers of violence against women. And we will require the welfare office to contact child support authorities within 2 days, once we get this information, to begin legal proceedings to hold fathers responsible for support.

This is important. Our system should say to mothers: If you want our help, help us to identify and locate the father so he can be held accountable as well. And it should say to fathers: We're not going to let you just walk away from your children and stick the taxpayers with the tab. The Government did not bring the child into the world; you did. Our people will help to take responsibility for those children, but you have to do your part as well. We have to make responsibility a way of life, not an option, when it comes to raising children in the United States.

So let me say again to you, I thank you for the giving, nurturing work you do. We would not have a health care system without you. America wouldn't be what it is without you. I thank you for demonstrating responsibility at work and, for most of you, at home as well throughout your lifetime. I ask for your continued support as we try to not only protect but to advance the cause of health care in this country. We must not rest until we have made health care accessible and affordable to every single American citizen. But we must also say to every American citizen, you ought to be as responsible in your life every day, as the nurses of America are in their lives.

This country works with opportunity and responsibility; we cannot have one without the other. And if we're going to build an America that will be the world's leading

source of peace and freedom and prosperity in the 21st century, if we're going to keep the American dream alive for all of us, we have to have both those things. You embody it in your life. We're trying to embody it in the policies we advocate. And I ask for your continued support. You've made me very happy, personally, here today, but you make me very proud to be President of an America with people like you. Let's keep fighting to make it better.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12 noon at the Washington Convention Center.

## **Statement on Russian Election Results**

*June 18, 1996*

I spoke with President Yeltsin this morning and conveyed through him to the Russian people my warm congratulations on the election, which is a success for Russia as a whole.

On Sunday, more than 70 million Russian citizens—representing about 70 percent of the eligible voters—voted in the first round of the Presidential election that will determine who will lead the Russian Federation for the next 4 years. They were able to choose among 10 candidates representing a wide range of political views in a contested election. Russian and international observers have reported nothing thus far to indicate any significant irregularities in the voting process.

This is an important milestone in Russia's history as a democracy and a welcome sign of just how far that country has come in a few short years. The runoff round will allow the Russian people to complete the process of electing their President.

A critical element of our post-cold-war relationship with Russia is its continuing development as a democracy. The United States will remain steady in its policy of active engagement with Russia to support political and economic reform and Russia's integration with the West.

## **Memorandum on the Child Support Initiative**

*June 18, 1996*

*Memorandum for the Secretary of Health and Human Services*

*Subject: Child Support Initiative*

I hereby direct you to implement the plan I am announcing today to strengthen the child support system and promote parental responsibility.

I direct you to exercise your legal authority to take the following steps to implement that plan:

- 1) issue proposed regulations relating to paternity establishment that:
  - (a) clarify the definition, under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program, of "cooperation" with paternity establishment by requiring that a mother provide both the name of the father and other identifying information deemed appropriate by the State (except when there is good cause, such as being in danger of domestic violence, for not cooperating);
  - (b) require all applicants for assistance under the AFDC program to cooperate with paternity establishment efforts prior to the receipt of assistance; and
  - (c) require that applicants for assistance under the AFDC program be referred to the State child support agency within 2 days of application, so that the agency can initiate a legal paternity action; and
- 2) implement a pilot program matching new-hire data collected by participating States with Federal Parent Locator Service data in order to better track parents owing child support obligations who have taken a job in another State.

The plan I have outlined will help strengthen child support operations by toughening the paternity establishment requirements for applicants for welfare and by enabling States to locate, and withhold wages from, child support obligors who have taken a job in another State. Its prompt implementation is integral to achieving our goal of pro-

moting the American value of parental responsibility.

**William J. Clinton**

## **Memorandum on the Child Support Initiative**

*June 18, 1996*

*Memorandum for the Secretary of Labor*

*Subject: Child Support Initiative*

I hereby direct you to assist in the implementation of the plan I am announcing today to strengthen the child support system and promote parental responsibility.

I direct you to exercise your legal authority in a manner that will assist the implementation of the plan by encouraging those State employment security agencies that collect new-hire information for use in child support enforcement to report such information to the Department of Health and Human Service's pilot program for matching new-hire data with Federal Parent Locator Service data in order to better track parents owing child support who have taken a job in another State.

The plan I have outlined will help strengthen child support operations by toughening the paternity establishment requirements for applicants for welfare and by enabling States to locate, and withhold wages from, child support obligors who have taken a job in another State. Its prompt implementation is integral to achieving our goal of promoting the American value of parental responsibility.

**William J. Clinton**

## **Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Southern Governors and an Exchange With Reporters**

*June 19, 1996*

### **Church Burnings in the South**

**The President.** I would like to welcome the Governors, the other State elected officials who are here, the commissioners of public safety who are here, the Members of Congress who have come together to discuss the problem of church burnings, which has troubled so much of our country. I expect that for our part we will cover three areas today. We want to talk about the efforts to prosecute those who are responsible for these crimes, and we want to give a report

on that. We want to talk a little about the rebuilding efforts. And I compliment the National Council of Churches and the other religious organizations and citizens that are involved there. And I think we all know we need to try to do more to prevent these burnings from occurring in the first place.

So, we're going to talk about some initiatives that we might be able to take together to work with communities to do more prevention work. And we may have more to say about that in the days ahead.

The most important thing to me is that as Americans we consistently and passionately come together to say this crosses racial lines, this crosses party lines, and this crosses religious lines. The first freedom in the Constitution, the first amendment, enshrines the freedom of religion in America. And whether they're black churches or white churches or synagogues or the mosque that was burned in South Carolina, we cannot tolerate any of it.

I thank all these people for coming together, particularly the Governors, to work with us to see what we can do together to stem this tide and turn it around. The American people do not support this, they are passionately opposed to it, and we need to do what we can to end it.

**Q.** Do you think it's a conspiracy, Mr. President, in the country against black churches per se?

**The President.** No, I do not believe that based on the evidence I have seen it is a conspiracy. On the other hand, I do believe a lot of these instances are racially motivated, and they tend to play off of one another. I think that, you know, just because they're not connected doesn't mean there's not a feeling there that we need to all reject together. And I must say I've been very moved by the range of religious and political organizations that have come out to speak out against this, offered to contribute to rebuild these churches. I think that this is a place where nearly 100 percent of Americans are in accord. And I think we just need to make our voices heard, and we need to do the right things. And if we can do that, I think we'll get the results that we want.

**Q.** Given the number of church burnings that have taken place since you spoke out

about it, are you concerned that the publicity being given to the issue has perhaps had the opposite effect of what you've intended?

**The President.** Well, I don't think it will over the long run because the people will see that we're being effective in prosecuting these cases. And more and more people will rally in their own communities and even across community lines. We see some people—we see people even across State lines volunteering to send church groups into other States to help rebuild churches and things of that kind. And I think if we develop a prevention strategy it won't.

It was quite a sizable problem before there was a lot of national attention to it. In the last 18 months—I've monitored the numbers over the last several years—the last 18 months it's gotten quite a lot worse. So, I think we just—we have to focus on it, and we have to speak out as a country about it. And I think as we speak out together and as people see there is no politics in this—we have Republicans and Democrats here, we have people—we have African-Americans, Hispanics, and WASP's and Jews in this room together and in this country. We're all going to work together on it. We can do that.

#### **Bruce Lindsey**

**Q.** Mr. President, Bruce Lindsey has been named an unindicted co-conspirator by Whitewater investigators. Do you still have complete faith in him?

**The President.** Absolutely.

**Q.** Will this change his status at the White House in any way?

**Q.** Does this hit close to home to you, sir, with Mr. Lindsey being named in this way?

**The President.** No. He was thoroughly investigated and not charged with ample opportunities. I've got lots of confidence in him. I'm confident he didn't do anything wrong.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:52 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

#### **Remarks on the 35th Anniversary of the Peace Corps**

*June 19, 1996*

Thank you. Mandy, where are your family? Stand up there. Let's give them a hand. [Ap-

plause] Thank you very much. You did a good job there. Thank you very much.

To Sargent and Eunice Shriver, thank you so much for the Peace Corps, for the Special Olympics, for everything you have done for America and for the world. Senator Wofford, thank you for the Peace Corps and for national service and for everything that happened in between. Thank you, Mark Gearan, for proving that there is life after the White House. *[Laughter]* To all the former volunteers who are here, to the distinguished Members of Congress, to Ambassador Spio-Garbrah, thank you, sir, we're honored by your presence and by our friendship with your country.

The Peace Corps, for 35 years, has shown America at its best. In the summer of 1961, as has been said, there were 80 young Americans standing where these Americans stand today. Wearing their Sunday best, they waited excitedly to meet President Kennedy, and I understand they were chatting occasionally among themselves in Twi, the language they would have to use more frequently as they moved along. *[Laughter]*

More than half of them were preparing to leave for Ghana, about to launch one of the greatest experiments in service to humanity in all human history. They would live as the people of Ghana lived and be active as a part of the communities they served. They were trained to teach, but they were going to learn and to bridge the gaps of development and custom with sturdy bonds of friendship and compassion.

On that day, President Kennedy said, "The future of the Peace Corps really rests with you. If you do well, then the Peace Corps will be developed, and more and more Americans will go abroad, and we will find a greater and greater response to serving our country." The men and women of "Ghana I" did the President, the Peace Corps, and America proud. I am very grateful to all of you, and I'm glad to have you back in the Rose Garden today, 35 years later.

When President Kennedy created the Peace Corps 35 years ago with the extraordinary support of Sargent Shriver, Harris Wofford, Ted Sorenson, and many others, he tapped an overflowing reservoir of energy and idealism. Thousands of young people an-

swered the call to serve at the vanguard of the new frontier. Among the first was the Vice President's beloved sister, Nancy Gore Hunger. They gave of themselves to help others around the world to become the best they could be and to bring to them the message by the example of their lives that our Nation is a great country standing for great ideals, a country that cares about human progress everywhere in the world.

The Peace Corps symbolized everything that inspired my generation to service. It was based on a simple yet powerful idea: That none of us alone will ever be as strong as we can all be if we'll all work together. None of us can reach our fullest potential while others are left behind. Community counts, and every member of our community matters at home and on this increasingly small planet we share.

Since 1961, as Mark said, more than 140,000 Americans have served as Peace Corps volunteers. Today the Peace Corps' towering task is just as vital as ever. I am very grateful for those who serve today. And their mission is just as important today as it was 35 years ago. Even as we meet, the Peace Corps is hard at work in countries few could have imagined going to back in 1961. Indeed, the Peace Corps is hard at work today in countries that did not exist in 1961.

It has traced the rising tide of freedom to meet new needs around the globe from Central America to Central Europe to Central Asia, sharing the skills of private enterprise in nations struggling to build a market economy, empowering women, protecting the environment, and always showing others the path to help themselves. I'm proud to say that in April, after an absence of nearly 5 years, Peace Corps volunteers returned to Haiti to help the Haitian people make the most of their hard-won freedom. Just a couple of days ago, the First Lady and I had the honor to welcome to the White House for a brief visit former President Aristide and his wife. And he talked in glowing terms about the citizenship of the Americans who have come to help Haiti, from those who came in uniform, including 200 Haitian-Americans who could speak Creole to the people of Haiti, to the Peace Corps volunteers who labor there today.

With the agreement that the Vice President signed last December, as has already been said, our Peace Corps volunteers will go this year to serve in South Africa for the first time. They must be so excited. So many others have gone before them, but they can prove—they can prove—that South Africa can make its dreams and its promise real.

I'm also proud to announce the establishment of a Crisis Corps within the Peace Corps to help the relief community to cope with international emergencies. It will draw on the Peace Corps' recent successful experience in helping people affected by disasters, such as rebuilding homes in Antigua that were destroyed by Hurricane Luis and helping Rwandan refugees to grow their own food.

The dedicated service of Peace Corps volunteers does not end when their 2-year tour is over. Today, returned Peace Corps volunteers, as has been said, are making a difference in our administration, in the Cabinet, like Secretary Shalala, or those on Capitol Hill who have already been introduced. And I want to thank them all, Republicans and Democrats alike. I wish we had them up here explaining what the role of their service in the Peace Corps was in animating their future careers in public service. There are many leaders in journalism, in business, in education, including many who are here today. Thousands of volunteers just serve in their communities today or offer their time to teach schoolchildren about the world in which they live, in which they, the volunteers, were fortunate enough to explore at an earlier time in their lives.

Their spirit of service is the spirit of America. In that sense, it's more than 35 years old; it's as old as our country itself. And I can't help but note that not all our 140,000 Peace Corps volunteers have been so young. They just had to be young at heart, young in spirit, young in imagination. And thank you, sir, for making me feel that I might have a future in the Peace Corps. *[Laughter]* I'm glad to see you. Thank you.

We all remember the legendary mother of former President Carter and her wonderful stories of how the Peace Corps changed her life. The Peace Corps is for all Americans who wish to serve.

When I became President we challenged America to rekindle that spirit of service. I thank Senator Wofford for working to support the creation of AmeriCorps in 1993, to give young people a chance to serve their country here at home, and for doing more by running the Corporation for National Service today. Americans now, in addition to the 140,000 who have worked in the Peace Corps, we've had 40,000 young Americans lifting their own lives by giving comfort and support to dealing with problems here in the United States.

Last month when I spoke at Penn State, I asked our people to further spread the ethic of service throughout our Nation. I asked America's institutions of higher education to use more of their work-study money to promote community service here at home. And I challenge every community to get our students to answer the call of service. With our help, a year from now we want service scholars to be honored at every high school graduation in America. We have to take the spirit of the Peace Corps into the lives of every young person in this country. Every citizen needs to know that we give and we get, that we grow by giving and serving.

So let us always remember that the truest measure of the Peace Corps' greatness has been more than its impact on development. The real gift of the Peace Corps is the gift of the human heart, pulsing with the spirit of civic responsibility that is the core of America's character. It is forever an antidote to cynicism, a living challenge to intolerance, an enduring promise that the future can be better and that people can live richer lives if we have the faith and strength and compassion and good sense to work together.

Thank you all for making that live in our country. And God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:14 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mark Gearan, Director, and Amanda Jackson, member from Atlanta, GA, Peace Corps; R. Sargent Shriver, first Director, Peace Corps, and his wife, Eunice Shriver, founder, Special Olympics; Ambassador Ekwow Spio-Garbrah of Ghana; Theodore C. Sorenson, Special Counsel to the President, administration of John F. Kennedy; and former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide of Haiti, and his wife, Mildred.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting  
the International Natural Rubber  
Agreement**

*June 19, 1996*

*To the Senate of the United States:*

I transmit herewith, for the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, the International Natural Rubber Agreement, 1995, done at Geneva on February 17, 1995. The Agreement was signed on behalf of the United States on April 23, 1996. The report of the Department of State setting forth more fully the Administration's position is also transmitted, for the information of the Senate.

As did its predecessors, the International Natural Rubber Agreement, 1995 (INRA), seeks to stabilize natural rubber prices without distorting long-term market trends and to assure adequate natural rubber supplies at reasonable prices. The U.S. participation in INRA, 1995, will also respond to concerns expressed by U.S. rubber companies that a transition period is needed to allow industry time to prepare for a free market in natural rubber and to allow for the further development of alternative institutions to manage market risk. The new Agreement incorporates improvements sought by the United States to help ensure that it fully reflects market trends and is operated in an effective and financially sound manner.

The Agreement is consistent with our broad foreign policy objectives. It demonstrates our willingness to engage in a continuing dialogue with developing countries on issues of mutual concern and embodies our belief that long-run market forces are the appropriate determinants of prices and resource allocations. It will also strengthen our relations with the ASEAN countries, since three of them—Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand—account collectively for approximately 80 percent of world production of natural rubber.

Therefore, I urge the Senate to give this Agreement prompt consideration and its advice and consent to ratification to enable the

United States to deposit its instrument of ratification as soon as possible.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
June 19, 1996.

**Remarks on the 25th Anniversary of  
the Women's Legal Defense Fund**

*June 20, 1996*

Thank you very much. If I had any sense, I would quit while I'm ahead. [*Laughter*]

Thank you for that wonderful, warm welcome. I thank those here at the head table for their work—Ellen Malcolm and Pauline Schneider. John Bryan, thanks for sitting up here with me and upholding gender equality. [*Laughter*] I appreciate that. And thank you for proving as, I believe, one of America's truly outstanding chief executive officers, that it is possible to do well and to do good in one's life. Thank you for what you have done. Thank you.

And thank you, Judy Lichtman. You know, she was saying all that about constancy and always being there. And the truth is, I just could never bear to disappoint her. [*Laughter*] You are a remarkable national treasure for what you have done here, and we are very grateful to you. Thank you. Thank you.

You were kind enough to mention the women who hold prominent positions in our administration and who fill the judgeships of this country, and the U.S. attorneys positions and others. There are two who came with me today who have a lot to do with the work we do on women's issues, and I would like to acknowledge them in particular, Alexis Herman and Betsy Myers. I thank them for what they have done in—[*applause*].

I note with some satisfaction and pride that in the last 2 years you have had the Vice President speak here. And then you had Hillary speak here. And I am glad you finally got around to me. [*Laughter*] I appreciate being given the chance to come. [*Laughter*]

I also appreciate, and I know Congresswoman Jane Harman, who's here with me, appreciates what you said about the Congress and the budget. John heard me say this yes-



terday, but about 10 days ago or so I was at one of these fundraisers, you know, that you do a lot of at this time of year. And there was a gentleman there at the fundraiser who had brought his son. His son was his companion at the fundraiser. And this young man was 10 years old. I asked him after this interchange how old he was because he was so amazing. This young man comes up to me, shakes my hand, says, "You know, Mr. President," he said, "I imagine it's difficult for you to hear a funny joke that you can actually retell in public, isn't it?" [Laughter] A 10-year-old boy. And I said, "Well, now that you mention it, it kind of is." [Laughter] "When I was a Governor, I used to keep people laughing all the time. Then they told me it wasn't Presidential."

And he said, "Well, I heard one that I think you can use. I think it's appropriate." [Laughter] I said, "Alright, what is it?" He said, "Well you should tell people that you're being President with this Congress is sort of like a man standing in a cemetery. There are a lot of people under you, but nobody's listening." [Laughter] In case you'd like to meet that young man, he's now the youngest member of the White House speechwriting staff—[laughter]—and intending to support his parents in their old age.

I am very honored to be here, especially on your 25th anniversary, to thank you more than anything else for the work that you have done for opportunities for women, for stronger families, and a brighter future for America. As many of you have heard me say so many times, I am convinced that we are moving into an age of enormous possibility for our people as we move from the industrial age to the information age, as we leave the cold war behind for a new global society that is full of its own problems but still provides people more opportunities to live out their dreams in different ways than any previous period in human history.

I ran for President because I wanted to move our country into the 21st century, meeting the challenges of this new era, protecting our values, and guaranteeing that every American who would be responsible should have the chance to pursue opportunities that would give every person, without regard to their race, their gender, their back-

ground, the chance to live out their dreams, because I wanted to see this country coming together instead of being divided. And I was very tired, and I'm even more tired today, of seeing the political process used to take this incredible kaleidoscopic, diverse society to divide the American people when we ought to be working for ways to unite the American people, and because I felt very strongly that our country at the end of the cold war could not revert to its historic impulse to withdraw into our borders, that this is a time when we have to stay involved in the world, when only America can be the world's greatest source of inspiration for peace and freedom and for prosperity.

So those were the things that I wanted to do when I ran for this job, that I was determined to do when I got this job. And you have helped in that mission. You know, preserving the basic values of America and making us live up to them, that's really what the Women's Legal Defense Fund is all about. The opportunity for people to live out their own personal dreams and to build strong families and forge strong communities, that's really what the Women's Legal Defense Fund is all about.

We are still working on those things, and we are still bedeviled by some old problems. Yesterday, you may have seen in the press reports, I spent a lot of time working with Governors and other officials to try to come up with even more effective strategies to not only find the people who are burning these religious institutions—most of them African-American churches, at least one of them a mosque and, I might add, some white churches that have burned in our country in the last 18 months—there has been a big upsurge in overall burnings of religious institutions in the last 18 months. But we were also searching for ways to reach the heart of America to prevent these things from occurring, because they are a stark reminder that while we value religious liberty more deeply than any other nation in human history, the demons that haunt the human spirit in every land are not absent from America. And you have to stamp them out whenever they rear their ugly head.

I will always be very grateful, as Judy said, that the first law I signed was the family and

medical leave law. And I wanted it so badly. And some of you may remember, it was a hotly debated issue in the 1992 campaign because Congress had already passed it, and it had been vetoed once, maybe even twice, I can't remember. But the thing that struck me about it is that it was the symbol of the kind of country we should be trying to build. I am the son and the grandson of working women. I never thought there was anything abnormal about it. But I also know that the most important job any man or woman has is doing a good job of raising the children that they're fortunate enough to bring into this world.

And it seems to me that if you look at the pattern of work and childrearing and the tensions between them and the troubles so many people still have finding adequate child care and the difficulties so many people still have earning a decent living, an adequate living to raise their children, and still have time left over to spend time with their children, one of the central goals of America in the 21st century should be to enable people to succeed at work and at home. If we have to choose one or the other, we're going to be in trouble. We know now that our economy needs all these people in the work force. We know that most families, even two-parent families, need both incomes to have a good stable life. How can we even imagine a world with even more rapid changes and more unforeseen challenges that doesn't have systems in America for people succeeding at home and at work? If we have to give up succeeding at work to raise our children, our economy will surely suffer. If we have to give up successful raising our children just to make a living, well, the money won't be worth it.

The family and medical leave law puts this country on record as saying our national goal is to enable people to be good parents and successful at work. And I'm proud to say that a recent bipartisan panel concluded that just since the law has been in effect, 12 million American workers have been able to take time off when they had a birth in the family or a sick child or a sick parent without losing their jobs. Almost 90 percent of the businesses that were surveyed said that complying with the law costs them little or nothing.

This has been good for families and good for America.

The other day we had a very impressive group of people in the White House, the children who were the designated representatives of the children's miracle telethon in each of the States, children who had been desperately ill in children's hospitals, and they and their parents came to the White House. And I went downstairs to shake hands with all of them. And before I got out of the room, two of the parents spontaneously had come up to me and said, "We would never have made it if it hadn't been for the family leave law. I got to keep my job and try to help take care of my child. I don't know what this country was like before it."

And I can say to you it's amazing to me there are still people who say that we shouldn't have passed it. There are still people stubbornly saying, "Oh, there must be some way around this." There is no way around it. Our goal should be success at home; success at work. And that's what it's all about. And if it hadn't been for the Women's Legal Defense Fund, it might not be the law of the land. You were there a long before I had a chance to sign it, and I thank you for that.

I've sought for other ways to give women and particularly families more power, more control. It is true that I have fought to protect the right to choose and reproductive rights. We also have dramatically expanded what I call the family tax credit, the earned-income tax credit, so that as we go forward today it's worth about \$1,000 to every family in the country with an income of \$28,000 or less with children in the home. Our goal is to say if we're going to preach at people to work, the tax system should not put them in poverty if they have children at home. If you work full time and you have children at home, the tax system should lift you out of poverty, not push you down into it. That's what the earned-income tax credit's all about, and I'm very proud of it. And I have opposed vociferously the attempts in the last year and a half to cut back on it in ways that would, in effect, raise taxes on the hardest pressed working families in this country. That is wrong. Success at home; success at work; don't let the

Government get in the way of that. The Government should be helping that.

We also have tried to give parents more control in helping to raise their children. That's really what the crusade we've been on trying to restrict advertising of tobacco products to children is about. And it's what the V-chip was all about. And I applaud the entertainment industry for their willingness to develop these rating systems on television. I don't believe in censorship; I just believe parents ought to have some ability to raise their kids and to try to expose them to things in the appropriate way at the appropriate time. This is the thing that I think all of you—I think it would be helpful to all of us if we began to think in these terms. We don't have a person to waste. We need everybody's ability. We need people to have a chance to grow up and have good schools and a clean environment and safe streets and also strong families. And when I think—when I imagine what the world is going to be like 10 or 15 years from now, I know that there will be millions of people working 10 years from now in jobs that have not even been created yet. Some of them we can't even imagine. And it will be a very exciting time if we have a system by which we can work with other freedom-loving people to fight back the security threats we face from terrorism and biological and chemical weapons and things like that and if we have a structure of community and family here at home that enables us to give people the chance to be successful at home and successful at work and children the chance to have safe streets and good schools and a clean environment. If we can do that, if we can set up that framework, there are no guarantees in life, but at least people will have the opportunities they need.

One other thing I want to say about that is that that means that this country must say that the level of crime and violence we have is simply unacceptable, and it is not unavoidable. We can do something about it.

You know, when we passed the crime bill in 1994, it embodied the central commitments I made to the American people when I ran for President. We also passed the Brady bill then. I said, "I want the Brady bill. I want the assault weapons banned. I want 100,000 police on the street. I want 'three

strikes and you're out' for serious offenders, but I want funds going to communities to give young people the chance to say yes to something, to stay out of trouble before they get into trouble." That's what I think we ought to do.

And I have spent years and years going around visiting people in law enforcement and looking at these programs and trying to learn what works—first, of course, in my own State and then, when I began to travel some, around the country. And I was convinced that we can bring the crime rate down. I'd seen it happen in various communities simply by implementing these strategies. And there were those who said that the crime bill was a fraud and a fake and wouldn't have any impact. Well, I can tell you that it's 1996 now, and we're almost halfway home on putting those 100,000 police on the street. We're ahead of schedule. We are under budget.

We have passed the assault weapons ban. And there haven't been any hunters and sportsmen or women lose their weapons and their bullets and all that. It was a all a big smokescreen. Everybody who wants to go deer hunting is still doing it. *[Laughter]* But I'll tell you something, there are 60,000—let me say it again—60,000 felons, fugitives, and stalkers who have not been able to buy handguns because of the Brady bill's check into it.

Now the Supreme Court has agreed to review a case over the constitutionality of requiring local law enforcement officials to help make sure that a person buying a handgun is legally entitled to do so. Well I just want to make clear, I am going to do everything in my power to keep the Brady bill the law of the land. It's keeping people alive. It's a good thing. Convicted felons and fugitives and people who are a threat to the community or to their own spouses and children should not be out there, if we can keep them legally from having the handguns by a simple waiting period so that we can check whether they should have it or not. Every law enforcement organization in this country has endorsed the Brady bill. And we dare not walk away from it. It is keeping people alive.

And let me point out now, the crime rate in this country is going down this year. It is going to be the 4th year in a row that it's

gone down. It's because people all over this country now have figured out community policing works, because prevention strategies work, because this whole approach works. There's more to do. We need to ban these cop-killer bullets so our police are not at risk when they're out there. But this is working. And the point I want to make to you is that we can make a difference here. We can make a difference here. Don't let anybody tell you that America is just an inherently violent country, and we have to tolerate this level of violence. It is simply not true. We can do better.

There's more to do in a lot of other ways. I thank you for support of the minimum wage. Ten million people depend on it, and we need to raise it. I'm rather tired of being told that the only people that get the minimum wage are middle and upper middle class teenagers who are living at home with their parents who don't need it. Sixty percent of the people on the minimum wage are women workers, many of them have children they're trying to support on the minimum wage.

We have to help people adjust to the changes in the new economy. That's why I, even though—and I appreciate what Judy said about health care, and I thank—so many of you helped Hillary when we committed the unpardonable sin of trying to give every American health care that they could afford. [Laughter] And somehow I don't think God's going to hold it against us when our final accounting comes.

But we ought to pass the Kennedy-Kassebaum bill, and we ought to do it now. We ought to do it in an uncluttered fashion. And we ought to quite fooling around with it. It's time to stop holding these good legislative measures. That bill passed 100 to zero in the Senate. And it is now being held hostage to controversial measures inessential to the fundamental purpose of the Kennedy-Kassebaum bill. We should pass it now. People should not lose their health care because somebody in their family has been sick or because they have to change jobs. That is wrong, and we can change it and we should do it.

We ought to guarantee that whenever someone loses a job or they're grossly under-

employed and they need more training, they qualify for Federal help. I believe they should get a voucher they can take to their local community college. That's the "GI bill" for American men-and-women-workers. That has been tied up in the Congress over an ideological argument, extraneous to the merits, for a year. It is time to pass that.

The Congress has a package of pension reform legislation which would make it much easier for small businesses and self-employed people to take out pensions and then to carry it with them from job to job without ever losing their coverage. That sounds like a simple thing if you happen to work for the Government and you've got a good retirement program or you're fortunate enough to be in a big company with a good retirement program. But it is a huge deal to American men and women who do not have access to this. And as far as I know, there is no opposition in the Congress to this package of pension reform legislation. We ought to pass it, get out there, tell people you can at least save for your retirement, and you won't lose it if you lose your job for a while or you have to change jobs. These are important measures that need to pass.

And I believe that while we dare not get into some flagrant tax-cutting war until we finish the work of balancing the budget, we should give families a deduction for the cost of college tuition and a tax credit so that everybody who wants to can go to at least 2 years of education after high school, to make community college 14 years of education, not 12 the rule in America. We need it. It would help the American economy. It would lift the incomes of millions of working women.

I also want to say that we have more to do in the area of public safety, especially on the issue of domestic violence. A lot of you were particularly active when we were working for the crime bill in passing the violence against women provisions and setting up the domestic violence operation in the Justice Department, which Bonnie Campbell is doing such a good job of heading. And I thank you for that. But there is more to be done there. Violence against women is certainly no stranger in this country. It is an unwelcome intruder. And it is not a family problem, and it is not a woman problem, and

let me say it is most assuredly not just a poor person's problem. This is an American problem that we have to face.

In September Federal prosecutors used that law to ensure that a man convicted of severe violence against his wife was sentenced to life in prison. The Violence Against Women Act says that victims of domestic violence should be able to seek relief in Federal court for a violation of their civil rights, and yesterday a Federal judge upheld that provision of the law as well.

Last February, we launched a 24-hour, 7-day, toll-free hotline so that women in trouble can find out how to get emergency help, find shelter, or report abuse to the authority. Today, the hotline has responded to over 20,000 calls from women all across this country. Again, that's just the first 3 months; we don't have the latest up-to-date. But think of that, a lot of those people never would have even called for help before. And I'll get in my plug, the number is 1-800-799-SAFE. And I want people to keep using that number. We are working those cases and helping people.

Today, we are taking the next step. I am proud to announce that our Justice Department is awarding over \$46 million to help 336 different communities in America to fight domestic violence through the community policing program. The police departments who will be receiving these grants have well-established community policing programs, strong relationships with local providers of services to victims. We're coupling the power of the police forces routed in the community with the experience of people who have been fighting domestic violence for a long time.

And again I say, this will work. I was in San Diego recently, and let me just give you one example. Their police department has one of the largest domestic violence networks in America. They formed it in 1992, and since then, domestic violence homicides have been cut by 50 percent. You must believe we can do something about these problems, otherwise all these things just become words. I'm telling you, you can make a difference if we do the right things and we do them together.

The San Diego police department is getting a grant today that they will use to start an information network with the local YWCA to give victims and service providers and police officers one-stop access to all the available help in the area, to bring the domestic violence rate in San Diego down even more, and to help victims as they work to take control of their lives back.

As I said when I announced the hotline, you know, if it just saves one life it's worth it. But it's not enough. We have to keep doing this until this is the exception, not the rule. We have to keep working on all these problems until crime is the exception, not the rule. We will never rid the country of crime. We will never have no domestic violence. But you know what the test is? The test will be when you can go home at night, turn on the evening news, and if the lead story is a crime story, if the lead story is a domestic violence story, you are surprised instead of numb to it. That is the test. And we have to keep going until you are surprised again.

So I will close by echoing Judy's wonderful remarks. As you celebrate 25 years of progress in the lives of women and strength for the women and families of this country, I ask you to rededicate yourselves to the work yet to be done. I ask you to see this as an unfinished journey. I ask you to celebrate your achievements as evidence that you can make a difference. Sometimes I think that when we think about our thorniest problems, our biggest difficulty is that we tend to get so weighed down by them we think that we can't change the fundamental fabric of this society. Two hundred twenty years-plus of American experience gives the lie to that cynicism. You can make things better. You can make progress. We can make a difference. You have a great 25 years, and you have got an agenda that will fill up the next few years. I ask you to embrace it with vigor and good humor and determination and courage, and we will prevail.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:55 p.m. at the Washington Hilton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Ellen Malcolm, president, Emily's List; John Bryan, chief executive officer, Sarah Lee Corp.; Judy Lichtman, president, and Pauline

Schneider, vice chair, Women's Legal Defense Fund.

**Remarks at the Presidential Scholars Awards Presentation Ceremony**  
*June 20, 1996*

Thank you very much, Rebekah. You did a terrific job. I hope you weren't nervous; you couldn't tell. *[Laughter]* And I know your parents are here, and your teachers are very proud of you and all the other Presidential scholars who are here. I want to thank Stuart Moldaw and all the members of the commission who have the difficult job of picking Presidential scholars. I want to thank Secretary Riley for the wonderful work he has done as our Secretary of Education, for our many years of personal friendship.

Rebekah did such a good job, we forgive you for your shameless South Carolina pride in mentioning the South Carolina scholars. *[Laughter]* You have given me leave to mention that there are two Presidential scholars here from Arkansas: Martin Beally from Sherwood, and Caroline Rothert, are from my hometown of Hot Springs. So I congratulate them. I also want to thank Alison Tupay for singing "The Star Spangled Banner" on the spot. She did a great job, I think.

More than anything else—I'm going to see the scholars tomorrow when we send the Olympic torch off, but I love this moment. And I was jealous that the Vice President got to go to the medal ceremony yesterday. This has been sort of a crazy week around here. I was hoping maybe one of the scholars could explain the chaos theory to me, and I could apply it to what I'm trying to do. *[Laughter]* But I love this program. I believe in it so strongly. And I wanted to have a chance just to meet with not only the scholars but to see the parents and the family members, the teachers, the mentors, the people who helped these young people come to this point. And the most important message I have I'll just say and get out of the way; I wanted to say congratulations to the scholars, but I mostly wanted to come here to thank the families and the teachers who have made these young people's lives possible and better. If every American would follow the example you have set, this country would not

have many problems and we would have an unlimited future. And I thank you so much for what you've done.

To the young people, I would say this is an historic hall we are meeting in, Constitution Hall. When I was not much older than you—you'll be embarrassed that I can remember this date so long ago—on June 24, 1967, I had the highest seat up there—I couldn't afford a better one—to hear Ray Charles sing in Constitution Hall. *[Laughter]* He was so magnificent, I was so excited, I literally carried—the reason I remember the date is I carried the ticket stub in my billfold for 15 years afterward. *[Laughter]* And I never forgot the concert.

Not all that long before then, the great American singer, Marian Anderson, was denied the right to sing in Constitution Hall because of her race. And the father of my Deputy Chief of Staff, Harold Ickes, then the Secretary of the Interior, arranged for her to sing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, the same place that not so many years later Martin Luther King would deliver his famous address.

So this whole area in here is full of America's history. And it reminds us—I hope all of you really get a chance to look around and sort of soak it in. It reminds us of all this country has done and meant. It reminds us of how far we have come. It reminds us of the continuing struggle we have to live up to the ideals of our Constitution. It also will remind you, if you look closely, that there are still hard-working people struggling to make ends meet within a mile of where we're now sitting or, in the case of the young people, standing. There are young people within a mile of this place who have not had the same opportunities that the young people we honor here today have had. So it is the story of America.

We celebrate our achievements, we declare our loyalty to the Constitution and the values it embodies, and we must rededicate ourselves to making sure that the American dream never dies for every person who's willing to work for it. Every person here, as I said, is indebted—the young people who have been honored, to the teachers who have helped them, the parents who supported them, to others who helped along the way.

And I believe it is the job of every generation to make sure that the next generation has a chance to live out their dreams. That really is the mission of our administration.

I came to Washington at a time of profound change for this country. We were moving from an industrial age into an age dominated by information and technology. The great computer genius, Bill Gates, says that the digital chip is the most significant advance in communications in 500 years, since Gutenberg printed the first Bible in Europe.

We know that we have left the cold war behind, and we're moving into a global society in which we see ideas and information and money and technology and people move around the world in unimaginable speed and variation, compared to just a few years ago. We know that the young people standing on this stage—many of them will actually do work that has not even been invented yet. Within 10 or 15 years, some of them will be doing things that no one has even imagined yet.

So we are moving into a period really unlike any in the history of our country before, when there will be more opportunity for people to live out their dreams than ever before. And the real challenge, I believe, is to make sure that every person has a chance, not a guarantee but a chance, to live out those dreams, that we do it in a way that brings us together as a country, instead of dividing us.

We are, today, more a nation of immigrants that at any time since the beginning of this century that we're about to leave. Just look around this room. Look at them. We see the kaleidoscope of America. And it is a constant, urgent task that we find ways to unite this country around our basic values and not let ourselves be divided.

Just yesterday I had Governor Riley's successor as the Governor of South Carolina and a number of other Governors here and other officials to talk about this recent wave of church burnings that has swept the country in the last year and a half. That is the exact opposite of what this country has always stood for. And it is an example of what is happening in much worse form around the world, where people are tempted to give into their old demons and define themselves by

what they're not rather than what they are and what they can become. And we cannot afford that in this country.

We must all be intolerant of that. We cannot be divided by religion or race, and we can never, never, never believe that in America it is permissible to take action against someone in their place of worship. It is wrong, and we must stand against it.

I appreciate what Rebekah said about the commitment of this administration to education. I know that one reason it's so strong is that I wouldn't be here without mine. I lived with my grandparents until I was 4. They started teaching me to read when I was 2 or 3. I still own one of the little readers they started me on. It was printed in 1946, I think. I grew up—my grandparents, my grandfather just barely got out of grade school. My stepfather, who raised me, dropped out right before he got his high school diploma. I was the first person in my direct line to graduate from college.

And if it hadn't been for my education and the gifts that others gave me along the way to help me with it, I never would have become President or had the opportunity to serve my country in the way that I have. I now know that there is something fundamentally different about the role of education in this time than in any other time. Always throughout our history, education has given individuals more opportunity. When we made a commitment to mass education after World War II, including making college education available to veterans who served through the GI bill, it helped to build an enormous middle class and to lift this country up, all of us.

Now, we're in a third stage where education can either be the faultline dividing our country or the bridge by which we all walk into the 21st century. Because now it is not enough, as it was 50 years ago in the GI bill or even 30 years ago, to have a huge number of people with a college education creating economic opportunities for everybody else in a mass-production, industrial society.

For at least 15 years, and actually probably more, our country has become more stratified, more unequal, divided more than anything else by the level of education of adults in the work force, so that you have this para-

doxical situation where in the last 3½ years—when we've been able to cut the deficit in half and take our exports to an all-time high, create opportunities for 3.7 million new people to have their own homes, and see our country produce nearly 10 million new jobs—9.7 million new jobs—we know in spite of all, that about half of the American work force has not gotten a raise after you adjust for inflation and that, compared to 15 years ago, the people in the bottom half are basically working a longer work week, having less time to spend with their children, and not really keeping up with inflation.

There are exceptions to all these statements, but the general rule still holds. The fundamental problem is that in a global economy, where we're all competing with everybody else, everywhere else, including people who work and live in some counties where incomes that no one could live a month on in America, that we have to raise the skill levels of our people so that education has to become more democratic, small "d" democratic, more widely available and more advanced than ever before. It must.

And that is what has driven the work that Secretary Riley and I and others have done in this administration, to try to lift the quality and standards of education but also to make it more broadly available. There are some things that we can do here. And we have tried to do them. We have tried to make available funds for States to come up with their own plans to meet the national education goals, to have high standards and high expectations, and to get free from some outdated rules and regulations. The Secretary's cut the rules of the Department of Education by nearly 50 percent. We have put more poor children into Head Start.

Now, perhaps most important of all, over the long run, we've tried to expand the availability of college. In the last 12 years before I came here, college education was the only thing that increased in cost more rapidly than health care. And a lot of people are—a man who was laughing I assume has just educated two or three kids already in college. And he's laughing to keep from crying, probably. [Laughter]

This is a problem with serious implications for our country. If you look at the 1990 cen-

sus—and pretty soon we'll be doing another in 2000 that will affect the lives these young people will have—you see an utterly stunning fact, that for the first time since we have been really working on the census, you can see clearly in a profile of America after the census in 1990, that American workers, particularly younger American workers that have at least 2 years of education after high school tend to get jobs where they are pretty secure in their jobs. If they lose their job, they're pretty good about getting another one. And they tend to get jobs that have a decent income with pretty good prospects for growth. Those that have less than that tend to be stuck in jobs where they can't change jobs very easily, and they usually lose ground to inflation. And the younger you are, the more profound those trends are likely to be.

Now, that means that we have to do some things to open college to more people. We've tried to expand the Pell grant program, for example. We changed the college loan program. And I want to thank Secretary Riley for something that I believe 10, 20 years from now will be viewed as one of the most revolutionary changes we've made: We started making loans directly to the colleges so that the students could get them with less hassle, pay them back at lower cost, and then pay them back according to a whole range of options, including their ability to repay the loan. So that if, for example, if you take a job as a schoolteacher or a police officer or a nurse and you're not getting rich, and you have a big college loan burden, you still will be able to always pay those loans off because they can be limited to a percentage of your income. And it's changed a lot for people. It's made things more available.

By next year, we'll have 65,000 young people who will have helped to pay their way through college through the AmeriCorps program, earning money to go to college by doing community service. And I see one of our board members is from the State of New Hampshire, a State that has one of the most active AmeriCorps programs in the country, where they really are doing remarkable things to solve problems and pay their way through.

Now, we've got two other big initiatives here on the plate that I think are quite im-



portant, and I just want to mention them because I want to encourage all of you to support these things and to embrace them. The first is, we're determined to see that every classroom and library in America hooked up to the Internet by the year 2000, every single one. And I think it will make a real difference.

We started this effort in California, where we had a lot of private-sector support. And we wired about 20 percent of the schools in one day, and they're already up to 50 percent of the schools now in California. Now, in many other States this whole movement is taking off and working like wildfire. But we also need to make sure that, in addition to being hooked-up, we've got good software, available hardware for all the students and sometimes for the parents as well, to participate, and trained teachers that are being given the support they need.

There is now an alliance of educational groups, teachers, parents, and administrators that have joined together to make sure that we have enough teachers to keep up with the connections. They call themselves the 21st century teachers, and this fall they're going to mobilize a voluntary effort, 100,000 teachers to help 500,000 other teachers master the technology so that they can make the most of it for our young people. This has enormous potential to make educational gains more widely available in poor rural areas, in underserved urban areas, in places where finances have been a real problem. We can use technology in a way that will lift the quality of education and the availability of it if we do it right.

The other thing I think we have to do is to make our goal a national goal, that college will be accessible to all Americans and that the norm will be that everybody would at least do 2 years after high school. That should become the rule. That should become what we all accept. We now have both economic and social evidence that we need to do that. So, in addition to the college loan and in addition to expanding the Head Start program, I have asked the Congress to make the first \$10,000 of college tuition tax deductible to every family in the country for both young people and adults.

I have asked Congress to broaden eligibility for families to invest in IRA's and then let people withdraw from their IRA tax-free if it becomes necessary to help finance their children's education or their own re-education as the case may be. And a few weeks ago at Princeton I asked—and by the way, I figured out a way to pay for all this in our balanced budget. This will not increase the deficit. I asked the Congress, in effect, to make access to 2 years of college universal by giving families a \$1,500 tax credit for the first 2 years of community college. The average tuition in this country at community college is \$1,200 a year. So that would, in effect, make 2 years of community college available to every American family, because we would have a tax credit that you could actually see. In effect, the Government was helping to fund tuition, free for everybody the first year, given to everybody the second year that has at least a B average. I think after the second year you ought to ask people to make the most of their education if the taxpayers are going to fund it.

But it seems to me that these are the kinds of things we ought to do in Washington if we want America to grow together. And when I look at these young people behind me and I think of every young person in this country, that we need to make sure that we reach them when they're young and we keep them in school and we give them something to hope for, this is a way of our being able to say to the poorest kids in this country, "If you hang on you can at least do this. This is something we will give you if you hang on."

Now, the rest of it is obviously up to the rest of you and your counterparts all across America. But I really believe that if we can both raise the quality and the range and reach of education, we can make sure that we grow together as a country instead of being split apart. I cannot tell you how important this is.

One of our counties, the biggest county in this country, Los Angeles County, has already, today, children in it from 150 different racial and ethnic groups, in one county. And still this county is thriving, it's doing well.

I'm just about to leave for a meeting of European leaders, and all over the world

they'll ask me, "How did you have 9.7 million new jobs in America in the last 3 years?" You know how many—the largest 7 economies in the world have created a total of 10 million jobs in the last 3½ years, 9.7 in the United States. And that's something you can be proud of.

But if you want this country to grow together, if you want these children to have the kind of future when their children are this age, to see America leading the world for peace and freedom, then we have got to recognize that education for everybody, more of it and better, is the central most important thing we can do to make sure that we go into the 21st century able to meet our challenges and protect our values.

And all of you, because of this experience, all these Presidential scholars because they're now Presidential scholars, and all of you who helped them along the way because you're their family members or you're their teacher, you can have a unique amount of influence in your communities to make sure that we all rededicate our efforts not to leave any child behind, not to leave any stone unturned in opening all the opportunity we can. There is no stopping this country in the 21st century if we do that one thing, if we give everybody who will work for it the chance to live out their dreams. If that is our shared commitment, our best days are still ahead. And 20 years from now they will be celebrating a whole new generation of Presidential scholars in a nation that is stronger and better and closer to the ideal of America than we are today.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:05 p.m. at Constitution Hall. In his remarks, he referred to Rebekah P. Close, Presidential scholar who introduced the President; Stuart Moldaw, Chairman, Presidential Scholars Commission; Gov. David M. Beasley of South Carolina; and Bill Gates, founder, Microsoft, Inc.

### **Remarks at a Ceremony for the Departure of the Olympic Torch**

*June 21, 1996*

Good morning. I want to begin by thanking Lang Brown, not only for what he has

done this morning in bringing the torch up here, but for what he does every day. He gives his best to help troubled teenagers, to teach them how to live responsible lives and to know that they are not alone as they do their best.

Today, we honor that spirit, the spirit of the Olympics, as we send forth the Olympic torch to light the way to Atlanta. Thank you, Lang Brown.

This torch has seen more of America than most of us Americans will see in a lifetime, and much of America has seen the torch, cheered it, and the people bearing it. The torch, burning bright and strong, stands for the job of athletic competition and more, for the importance of international cooperation and more, for the pride we feel when our strong young Americans win the gold and more. For this Olympic flame also calls upon each of us to be our very best as individuals, to do our best to build strong families and strong communities and a strong country. It tells us that victory comes to the united, not to the divided. Every Olympian has reached within and worked hard to be the fastest, the strongest, the most graceful.

We all have hurdles to leap, to finish high school or college, to be a good parent, a good worker, a good neighbor. Every one of us must summon that spirit of responsibility and best effort in our own lives. Every Olympian stands at the starting block or at the beginning of a great game alone. But they do not win alone. They draw strength from a lifetime of support from family and friends, coaches and role models. And every one of us must summon that spirit of community to meet our challenges.

Every Olympian is proof that for all of our differences, we are one America. We cheer our athletes not because they are men or women, not because of the color of their skin, we cheer them because they are Americans. They represent us all, and they fill us with pride. And every one of us must summon that spirit of unity, to embrace those things that bind us together, and never to succumb to those things that would keep us apart.

My fellow Americans, in the last several months, we have had to deal with some different kinds of flames. But it is this flame

that represents the best of the United States of America.

The Olympic spirit is the spirit of personal responsibility and best effort, the spirit of community, the spirit of unity. The people who carried this torch all across America show us exactly how that spirit can lift all our lives every day. This torch has been carried by a 74-year-old woman in Nevada who has cared for more than 100 abandoned children, by a New York businessman who has put thousands of disadvantaged young people through college, by a North Carolina teacher who organized students in 48 States against violence. This torch has been carried by America's best. They are everyday Olympians.

Now, this torch will be carried by someone who is America's best, who is both an everyday Olympian and a member of our Olympic team. Eight years ago, Carla McGhee was in a car accident. She almost died. Her body was broken, but her spirit was whole. She fought her way back to a promising basketball career that most people thought had been lost forever. She went on to return to the University of Tennessee and to help her team win a national basketball championship. The Vice President is particularly proud of that achievement. *[Laughter]* And now we hope that she will help to work the same magic for our Olympic women's team, a miraculous road back for a wonderful young woman.

May the Olympic flame always carry the ideals that burn in athletes and citizens like Carla McGhee, that burn in people like our torchbearers, the community heroes, the veterans of war and the keepers of peace, and all of those who have run with it, walked with it, wheeled with it, and set eyes on it. And may these ideals cast light on every shadow and brighten every dream on America's road to tomorrow.

May God bless America. And to Carla and all our Olympians, Godspeed.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:50 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to torchbearer Lang Brown, clinical director for independent living, Sasha Bruce Youthwork.

## **Remarks at the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Convention in Chicago, Illinois**

*June 21, 1996*

**The President.** Thank you. Thank you. Let me say, first of all, when I was standing up here with Gerry McEntee on my right and Bill Lucey on my left, I thought the best I could do is to ask you to give Clinton/Gore the same majority you gave McEntee/Lucey in 1996. I will accept it.

I'm also proud to be joined today by two of your friends from Illinois, two Members of the House of Representatives, Congressman Bobby Rush from Chicago and Congressman and Senator-to-be Dick Durbin from Illinois.

I understand I missed a lot at this convention. I missed the formal transfer of the gavel to Speaker Gephardt. I'm sorry I missed that. I missed Senator Kennedy pleading guilty once more to wanting all Americans to have health care. And I'm sorry I missed that.

Before I go further, I want to also congratulate someone else who is very special to this union, who celebrates today her 25th anniversary with AFSCME, Gerry McEntee's tireless and indispensable right hand, Gloria Caoile. Please stand up and be recognized. *[Applause]* Thank you. If I had known she was going to do that, I'd have done it first thing. It was great. It was quite wonderful. *[Laughter]*

Ladies and gentlemen, I will never forget as long as I live—

**Audience member.** Down in front!

**The President.** You all calm down, relax. You want everybody to sit down—they're taking pictures. We're going to have a little fun. Just relax. Be loose. Be loose.

I want to tell you that I will never forget as long as I live the fact that AFSCME stood with me early in 1992, when it was lonely and cold, and never stood back, never backed out. And I will never forget that no organization in America stood with the First Lady and with our administration more strongly when we fought to give health care to all Americans and preserve the dignity of Americans in our health care system. And I thank you for that.

I also will always be proud that when I was a State employee as the Governor of my State, I was a dues-paying member of AFSCME, because it got out of fashion for a while, but I have always believed in the dignity of public service. I believe it's important to honor people who take care of our parents and watch over our children and care for the sick, who protect the environment, and who are always there in emergencies. That's what you do. America should know it and be grateful. And I know it, and I'm grateful. I thank you for that.

I enjoyed watching the film that was shown just before I came out. It gave me a chance to reminisce a little about that campaign 4 years ago. I ran for that election because I had a vision for what I wanted America to look like in the 21st century, a vision which you shared. I wanted us to go into the next century with every American, without regard to race or gender or income, every American, having a decent opportunity—not a guarantee but an opportunity—to live up to their dreams. I wanted to see us coming together as a country, not being driven apart by cheap partisan politics designed to divide the American people. And I wanted us to continue to be the strongest force in the world for peace and freedom and prosperity.

Now, we've worked for 4 years to meet our challenges and to protect our values with a simple strategy: opportunity for all, responsibility from all, a community of Americans working together. We are all in this together. And I am tired of all the people who seek to divide us every day for their own personal advantage.

Four years ago the economy of the United States was drifting, high unemployment, an out-of-control deficit, few new jobs, a nation increasingly divided. We charted a different course with a new economic strategy: to cut the deficit; expand the sales of American products; give tax cuts to the 15 million hardest pressed American working families; invest in education, the environment, research, and new technologies, give incentives for people who live in distressed areas; and yes, pass programs like the Family and Medical Leave Act that enable people to succeed at home and at work.

It's very fitting that I am here today because this week—tomorrow, to be exact—is the fourth anniversary of the issuance of our economic plan in 1992. We called it "Putting People First." I said that if we did that two things would happen: First of all, we'd cut the deficit in half; and second, we would create 8 million new jobs in 4 years.

Now, after leaving us with a weak economy and record deficits and quadrupling the debt, the Republicans said it couldn't be done. They said my economic plan was a disaster. They said it would bring on a recession. Let me just read you some of the things they said. Senator Dole said, "The American people know this plan doesn't tackle the deficit head on." Speaker Gingrich said, "This will lead to a recession next year." Dick Armey said, "Clearly, this is a job-killer." John Kasich said, "This plan will not work. If it was to work, I'd have to become a Democrat." [Laughter]

Well, 3½ years later, we cut the deficit by more than half, and the economy has not produced 8 million new jobs, it's produced 9.7 million new jobs. Mr. Kasich said if this plan was to work, "I'd have to become a Democrat," I expect him to show up at the United Center in Chicago; we'll save a seat for him at the convention.

There are other ways that this strategy has helped real Americans. We've got 3.7 million new home owners—new home owners. We are moving toward our goal, led by Secretary Cisneros, of having more than two-thirds of the American people in their own homes by the end of this decade for the first time in the history of the United States of America.

We have an all-time high in the exports of American products and services. We've got an all-time high 3 years in a row of people starting new businesses in our country. We are moving this country in the right direction. The rates of unemployment and inflation combined are the lowest in 28 years. This country is on the move again. We've got a lot of problems out there, but we are moving in the right direction.

Maybe most important of all to me—because I think the test of the economy must always be, does it work for average Americans, does it help people build strong families, do all these numbers mean something

in the lives of our people—the most important statistic of all to me, therefore, is that last year average hourly earnings for American working people started to go up again for the first time in 10 years, and it's high time.

So when it came to the economy, with all respect, I think the evidence shows that they were wrong and AFSCME, the administration, and our friends in the Congress were right.

Then came the elections in '94, and they won the Congress. And they gave us their Contract With America. Their idea was under the guise of balancing the budget, to fundamentally alter the Medicare program to create two classes of care, turn Medicaid into a block grant and make sure that it couldn't cover the populations that it had protected for three decades, dramatically reverse education funding at a time when it's more important to educate more people for their future than at any time in the history of the United States of America, gut enforcement of the environmental laws, weaken enforcement of the occupational safety and health laws, allow employee pension funds to be raided, and raise taxes on 8 million of the most vulnerable working families in the country. That was their plan. They passed it; I vetoed it. They were wrong about that, too.

But we have more to do. It is high time we began the move on the future and forgot about the divisive and self-destructive elements in the contract. Let's do something positive to help build on the good work that's been done. Let's raise the minimum wage and not let it fall to a 40-year low and lift the American people. Let's pass the Kennedy-Kassebaum health care reform bill and guarantee that you don't lose your health insurance if you change jobs or if someone in your family gets sick. Let's do it now.

Senator Kennedy's bill passed the United States Senate 100 to 0. Why has it not passed the Senate and the House and been sent to my desk? Because we are debating matters that have nothing to do with Senator Kennedy's bill being put on that bill that would undermine our ability to improve health care for all Americans. Let's stop all the controversy. Let's make an agreement. Let's get

off the dime and stop depriving the American people of something 100 Senators have already said they're entitled to. Pass the Kennedy-Kassebaum bill now, and send it to my desk.

Let's give pension security to all those people out there working in small businesses, people that maybe have to change jobs four or five times in their lifetime. I have sent to the Congress a package of initiatives designed to make it easier for people who are self-employed or who work in small business to take out a pension plan, to keep it when they lose their jobs, to take it with them when they change their jobs. Every American who works hard ought to have pension security in this country, even in the global economy.

And let's continue to make education available to all Americans. I said the other day, and I want to reiterate, if you look at the future of America in the global economy, if you want all working people to have a chance to raise their incomes, all people have to have a chance to get more education. I have asked the Congress to do two things, and I will reiterate them here today. Number one, give every family a tax deduction for the cost of tuition up to \$10,000 a year for college. And number two, number two, make 2 more years of education after high school just as universal as high school by giving a tax credit of \$1,500 a year for the next 2 years of education so that everybody can have it—everybody. [Applause] Thank you. Thank you.

That is what this is about. But it's about more than economics. We also need other things to keep our country strong. We need strong families, strong communities, safe streets, and a clean environment. When I became President, I had literally talked to hundreds of Americans who despaired about the crime problem. They really didn't believe anything could ever be done to lower the crime rate. But I did, because I had seen the crime rate go down in communities where community policing had been adopted, where the police were back on the street again working in the neighborhoods, working with people to try to prevent crime and catch criminals and making things work. I have seen that happen.

And so I asked the Congress in 1994 to pass the crime bill and earlier, to pass the

Brady bill. And the leadership of the other party, they fought us on it all the way. They fought us on the 100,000 police; they fought us on the assault weapons ban; they fought us on the Brady bill. They convinced a lot of good God-fearing Americans, including some members of this union, I'll bet, that if those bills passed they were going to be weakened in their ability to pursue their hunting and sporting interests, somebody was going to come get their gun. Well now it's been 2 years later, and guess what? Every AFSCME member in America that wants to go deer hunting is still hunting with the same rifle. Nobody lost their gun. It wasn't true. They didn't tell you the truth.

In my home State in the fall, in a good year the ducks are so thick you can hardly see the sky. Every Arkansas AFSCME member who wants to go duck hunting is still hunting with the same rifle, if that's what they want to do. They did not tell them truth. But I'll tell you who is not having a gun. There are 60,000 people who have criminal records who are stalkers, who had no business buying guns who couldn't get them because of the Brady bill. We were right, and they were wrong. It was the right thing to do.

In just 2 years, we have almost half of those police officers paid for. We're ahead of schedule and under budget. And in that budget last year they tried to repeal the commitment to put 100,000 police on the street with the crime rate going down and the murder rate going down. They tried to turn back on a strategy that worked. I said no then; I say no today. We're going to make the American people safer. We're not going to put them at risk again. We're going to keep working until crime is the exception, not the rule in America again.

And there is a lot of talk about welfare reform. Well, let me tell you something. There are a lot of people in this audience that know more about moving people from welfare to work than the politicians in Washington will ever know. And if you work with people on welfare, you know that most people on welfare would very much like to be off of welfare. You know that there are flaws in the system which keep people on it, but they're not often the ones that others think

are there. And there are changes that ought to be made. Well, they talked about it, and they're still talking about it, but while they were talking, we were acting. We have given 40 States a total of 62 separate experiments to move people from welfare to work.

But I did veto their bill because it was tough on kids and weak on work. You cannot expect people on welfare to be different from people who aren't on welfare. We want to succeed at home and at work. We want people to succeed to home and at work. We don't want to be tough on the kids; we want to be good to the kids. That means what we need is child care and health care for the kids. We need jobs for the people to do, then require them to go to work. It's fine. Be very tough on that. Require them to go to work.

Now, who was right in this great debate? All I know is, after 3 years child support enforcement collections are up 40 percent; there are a million fewer people on food stamps; there are 1.3 million people fewer on welfare than there were the day I took the oath of office. I believe our approach has been proved to be right, and I think we should stay with it: work—work; child care; support for the kids; let people succeed at work and at home.

There are other things we're doing that have been controversial, that have engendered opposition from the leadership of the other side. They didn't like it when we proposed tough restrictions on tobacco advertising, and they have been richly rewarded for their dislike of that position. All I know is, it's illegal in every State in America for kids to smoke; 3,000 of them start smoking every day, and a thousand of them are going to die sooner because of it. I think we ought to do something about it, and I'm not about to apologize for it to anybody.

Some of their leaders didn't like it when we enacted the V-chip and said that televisions ought to include this V-chip now that we've got all these cable channels, so that parents would have more control over the programming their young children watch. I'm a big believer in the first amendment, but I think it's pretty hard to raise a kid in today's society, and we ought to give parents all the help they can get to help them raise

their kids free from violence and other destructive influences.

In all these debates, a clear picture comes through. We're going through a big change, folks. You all know it. You're having to change. You're dealing with it. We're moving from an economy based on big organizations in an industrial age that do mass production to an economy based on rapid transfer of information and technology in smaller, less bureaucratic, more creative organizations. It's affecting all of us in the way we work and live. We're moving way away from that cold war world where the world was sort of divided in two, into a world where there is a global society and things are happening so fast we can hardly keep up with it. And that's requiring a lot of changes.

They believe that the Government is the problem and that what everyone needs is to be told, "you're on your own. Go out there into the tender mercies of the global economy. Have a great time in cyberspace, and we'll get out of your way." I believe no great nation, at any point in human history, has ever, ever, gotten greater without extending opportunity to more and more people and having responsibility for more people to build a strong community. This is the greatest nation in human history because we have built a middle-class of people, and average people have had a chance to make it if they have done the right things. And that's what I think we ought to be doing into the 21st century.

So I say to them, I want us to go into the 21st century meeting our challenges and protecting our values together. Should we have a smaller Government in Washington and give you folks more responsibility? Yes. Should we walk away from our obligations to our people? No. No. Should we balance the budget? Yes. It will get interest rates down and create more jobs. To balance the budget, do we have to wreck Medicare and Medicaid, undermine education and destroy the environment? No.

I don't know about you, but I think this country was right 30 years ago when we said through the Medicaid program that no poor child or pregnant mother, that no elderly person, that no person with disability should be denied quality medical care just because

they can't afford it. I think we've got a stronger, better America because of that. I don't think we're weaker; I think we're stronger.

The majority in Congress today insists that we repeal this guarantee. I vetoed it once; I'll do it again if I have to. I think we're right. I think we're stronger because we honor these obligations. I don't know about you, but I think this is a better country because 30 years ago we decided that through the Medicare program we would provide adequate health care to every senior citizen in this country. And you know, we now have dramatically improved circumstances as a result of it. If you live to be 65 in America, you then are in a group of seniors that have the highest life expectancy in the entire world because of Medicare and Social Security.

Now, should we give people on Medicare more options? Should we expect people to pay their fair share? Should we do everything we can to cut inflation? Do we have to make sure that this program will survive for the next century and beyond? Of course, we do. But the plan that I vetoed, and the one they still propose, would put in place a Medicare plan that would literally create two tiers of care for our seniors and put millions and millions of our poorest and sickest seniors into second-class Medicare. I don't believe in that. I think we're stronger because we treated our senior citizens in a good and dignified way without regard to their income. I believe that.

I don't believe that we ought to weaken the worker safety laws. We can find better ways to work in partnerships with employers, but do we want to go back to the time when there were no protections for worker safety? We can find better ways to operate in the environmental sphere. We're giving 50 different companies, right now, the opportunity to throw the rule book away if they're subjected to tests for clean air and clean water and the other environmental tests. We're not hung up on the bureaucracy. But do we want to forget about the standards for clean air and clean water and chemical right-to-know and all those things? I don't think so.

**Audience member.** No-o-o!

**The President.** I say we should stand up for the notion that America will be stronger

in the global economy of the 21st century if we give our people clean air, clean water, safe streets, a solid education system, if we honor our commitment to our parents, and if we decide we are going forward together. It's always worked before. Why won't it work in the global economy of the 21st century?

I understand the other side is criticizing us because we have the support of labor unions. Well, I plead guilty to that. [Applause] Thank you.

**Audience members.** Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!

**The President.** Thank you. Thank you.

I would put—it is true that I have done some specific things that all of you wanted that I believed in. I believe in the Executive order I signed on striker replacement. I believe in the repeal of the anti-union Executive orders from the previous administration. I believe in the appointments I've made to these Federal agencies that finally are giving a fair break to both labor and management and not being too one-sided. I believe in that, I think you're entitled to a fair break. I think you're entitled to the respect and the full protection of the laws that were out there for you. I believe in those things.

I don't believe that we should weaken the power of labor by going back to company unions. I don't believe that. But I also want to point out, and based on my experience as a Governor and my experience as a President, it is simply a myth to pretend that everybody who serves the public is anti-change. I'd like to see some of these people who criticize people in public service go out and look at how the changes have been made in some of the welfare programs that you serve in and some of the health care programs that you serve in. I would like to see that.

I'd like to remind everybody in this country, if you'll let me now in my role as President crow that Business Week last year said that the best customer service on any toll-free line in America was not given by L.L. Bean or Federal Express, but by the Federal employees at the Social Security Administration. I am proud of that.

The Labor Department last month released a report by the mayor of Louisville, Jerry Abramson, and former Governor Florio of New Jersey, pointing out that when State

and local governments work in real partnership with their workers and let the people on the front line who know how things really work make decisions, then taxpayers can get better services at lower cost. You are willing to, able to, and actually effecting change. And you ought to get credit for the changes you're making to make the American people's lives better.

Now, let me say in closing, this is a very important election, because there is no status quo option here. You remember how in '92 we said the issue was change; it was change against drift and more of the same. Not true anymore. There are two very different views of change before the American people. We are going to walk straight into the 21st century on the strength of the decision we make in November. We are going to take one of those paths into the future.

And the good thing is the American people don't have to guess anymore. They know what I will do because I have done my best to do what I said I'd do in 1992. And the results have been good for the American people.

But to be fair, perfectly fair to our friends on the other side, they have also made it clear what they will do. The budget I vetoed would be the law of the land within 6 months after they had the Presidency and the White House. If the American people want it, they know how to get it. The environmental measures I stopped would be the law of the land within 6 months after they controlled the White House and the Presidency. And the worker safety weakening and all the other things.

So if you believe that the message we ought to give to Americans is, "You're on your own. Have a good time in the tender mercies of the global marketplace. Enjoy cyberspace," you have a option. But if you believe as I do, that the only way this country is going to be able to lead the world for peace and freedom and prosperity, the only way we're going to be able to get this country to come together with all of our diversity is to create opportunity and demand responsibility from everybody, to meet our challenges and protect our values together, then you have that choice for the future as well.



I know where you stand. I know where you're going to be working to see American stand in November. And all I can tell you is, as long as I live I'll be grateful that you stood with me.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:02 a.m. at McCormick Place East. In his remarks, he referred to Gerald W. McEntee, president, William Lucey, secretary/treasurer, and Gloria Caoile, special assistant to the president, AFSCME.

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### **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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#### ***June 12***<sup>1</sup>

The President announced his intention to nominate Patricia M. McMahon to be Deputy Director for Demand Reduction at the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

#### ***June 17***

In the morning, the President returned to Washington, DC, from Camp David, MD.

In the early evening the President and Hillary Clinton hosted a tea for former President of Haiti Jean-Bertrand Aristide and his wife, Mildred, in the Yellow Oval Room. Later in the evening, he addressed a reception for Gov. Mel Carnahan of Missouri at the Sheraton Carlton Hotel and attended a Democratic National Committee dinner at the Ritz Carlton Hotel.

The White House announced that President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt accepted the President's invitation to meet in Washington, DC, on July 30 for an official working visit.

#### ***June 18***

In the early evening, the President met with congressional leaders in the Cabinet Room.

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<sup>1</sup> This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Later, the President and Hillary Clinton hosted the annual White House summer picnic for members of the press.

The President declared a major disaster in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by flooding on June 12.

The White House announced the President asked the Congress for \$12 million in supplemental appropriation for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to intensify the Federal efforts to investigate acts of arson against African-American churches.

#### ***June 19***

In the early evening, the President addressed the Business Roundtable at the J.W. Marriott Hotel.

Later in the evening, the President attended a reception for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee at a private residence.

The President awarded the 1996-97 White House Fellowships to the following recipients: Brenda G. Berkman, Audrey Choi, Kimberly R. Cornett, Linda Eddleman, Stephanie Ferguson, Susan D. Fink, Peter S. Fiske, Lewis P. Long, Mark J. Mathabane, Kevin Monroe, David A. Moore, Robert C. Orr, Bonnie J. Ryan, Stefanie J. Sanford, Elisabeth A. Stock, Loree K. Sutton, Reginald M. Turner, and John (Randy) Wood.

The White House announced that President Islom A. Karimov of Uzbekistan has accepted the President's invitation to meet in Washington, DC, on June 25.

#### ***June 20***

In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton welcomed the arrival of the 1996 Olympic torch on the South Lawn of the White House.

#### ***June 21***

In the morning, the President traveled to Chicago, IL.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Houston, TX.

In the evening, the President attended a Democratic National Committee reception and gala at the J.W. Marriott Hotel. He then attended a dinner at a private residence and

a Saxophone Club reception at the El Dorado Ranch.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals to the National Cancer Advisory Board: Barbara K. Rimer; Richard J. Boxer; Frederick P. Li; Ivor Royston; Ellen L. Stovall; and Sandra Millon-Underwood.

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### **Nominations Submitted to the Senate**

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The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

#### ***Submitted June 18***

Ayse Manyas Kenmore, of Florida, to be a member of the National Museum Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2000 (reappointment).

Patricia M. McMahon, of New Hampshire, to be Deputy Director for Demand Reduction, Office of National Drug Control Policy, vice Fred W. Garcia.

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### **Checklist of White House Press Releases**

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The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements

#### ***Released June 15***

Statement by Senior Adviser for Policy and Strategy George Stephanopoulos on health care reform

#### ***Released June 17***

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Transcript of a press briefing by National Economic Adviser Laura D'Andrea Tyson and Secretary of Commerce Mickey Kantor on China's implementation of the 1995 Intellectual Property Agreement

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the President's meeting with President Clerides of Cyprus

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry announcing the upcoming visit of President Mubarak of Egypt

#### ***Released June 18***

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry announcing the President's request for \$12 million in supplemental appropriations for the ATF to investigate acts of arson against African-American churches

Transcript of remarks by Deputy National Security Adviser Samuel Berger at the Wilson Center

#### ***Released June 19***

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Transcript of a press briefing by Vice President Albert Gore, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Deval Patrick, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Enforcement James Johnson, and Housing and Urban Development Chief of Staff Bruce Katz on church burnings in the South

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry announcing that Hillary Clinton's Press Secretary, Lisa Caputo, will be leaving the White House to work for CBS, Inc.

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry announcing the upcoming visit of President Karimov of Uzbekistan

Statement by Chief of Staff Leon E. Panetta on the restructuring of White House personnel security functions

#### ***Released June 20***

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Transcript of a press briefing by Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Peter Tarnoff on the International Civilian Aviation Organization report on the downing of the Brothers to the Rescue aircraft by Cuba

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Assistant to the President for Economic Policy Daniel Tarullo on the President's visit to France for the G-7 meeting

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the return to Washington of U.S. envoys on Burma

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**Acts Approved  
by the President**

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NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.



## Correction to Volume 32—Number 17

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**Editor's Note:** The following news conference was not received by the Office of the Federal Register for publication in the appropriate issue. The following is the text of the President's news conference, designated No. 125.

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### **The President's News Conference in Moscow, Russia**

*April 20, 1996*

**The President.** I would like to begin my remarks by thanking President Yeltsin for his leadership in first initiating and then hosting this conference. The work that we all did here in Moscow, for me, is a part of my most important duty as President, increasing the safety and security of the American people.

At this nuclear summit, we have done that by reducing the grave dangers posed by nuclear weapons and the materials used to build them. The steps we have taken here today and the foundation of cooperation we've set for the future will make not only the American people but people all over the world more secure.

First, we resolved to complete a true zero yield comprehensive test ban treaty this year. Never before have all our nations joined as one and embraced this goal which would ban any nuclear explosion, including weapons test explosions. American leaders since Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy have sought a comprehensive test ban to help stop the spread of nuclear weapons and to strengthen the security of the United States and nations throughout the world.

Today, because of the progress made here in Moscow, we are closer to this goal than at any time since the dawn of the nuclear age. Our work will speed progress on the treaty which we hope to sign in September at the United Nations. With more hard work we can soon see the day when no nuclear weapons are detonated anywhere on the face of the Earth.

In this time of rapid technological change and increasingly open borders, one of the greatest dangers we face is the possibility of nuclear materials falling into the wrong hands. Today we agreed to work together more closely than ever to prevent that from happening. We will strengthen safeguards on fissile materials and components that might be used to build a bomb. We have created a joint program to fight trafficking in these materials by dramatically increasing cooperation among our nations' law enforcement, customs, and intelligence authorities.

Preventing the spread of nuclear material is a global problem that demands global cooperation. We want to enlist others in this effort as well. Already Ukraine has endorsed the program adopted here. We invite other nations to do the same and to join us in this crucial work.

We also took steps to make the civilian use of nuclear energy safer. The 10th anniversary of Chernobyl is only a few days off. We're determined to do more to increase reactor safety and prevent another tragedy from happening. We reaffirmed our agreement with President Kuchma to close Chernobyl by the year 2000, and we'll work to end the dumping of nuclear materials in oceans.

All our efforts here have been driven by a single principle: When we use nuclear energy, our first and highest priority must be safety.

From the beginning, it has been a crucial goal, a central goal of my Presidency to further reduce the nuclear threat. I'm proud of what we've achieved so far. Because of my agreement with President Yeltsin, for the first time since the dawn of the nuclear age,

no Russian missiles are targeted at United States cities. We secured the indefinite extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, froze North Korea's dangerous nuclear program, cut existing nuclear arsenals by putting the START I treaty into force, and cleared the way for even deeper cuts by ratifying the START II treaty. And we persuaded Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan to give up the nuclear weapons on their soil.

There is more we must do. In this new era of possibilities we do have real opportunities to make all our citizens safer, but we know there are real challenges there as well. This important summit has put these issues of nuclear safety at the top of the international agenda. Today, we took yet another step back from the nuclear precipice. We must not rest until these dangers have been reduced, until the cloud of fear has been lifted, until we can feel safe that the power of the atom is being used to benefit human life and not imperil it.

#### ***Support of Russian Denuclearization***

**Q.** Mr. President, even with the millions previously pledged by the United States, Russia is still said to be many years away from being able to properly guard nuclear materials and facilities. This summit, however, is producing no new financial pledges to such programs and instead is producing more paper agreements of the type Russia's already been slow to comply with. How confident can you be in Russia's will—in its financial goals to carry out the agreements it's signed, particularly if it has——

**The President.** Well, first of all, we do have some funds set aside for this purpose that have not been fully drawn down. And secondly, in terms of the United States and Russia, we've been working on this issue for better than 2 years now, and I can say that in the last year we have seen a substantial number of specific things being done by the Russians to increase nuclear safety here. So I think there has plainly been movement, I think they're clearly moving in the right direction.

Let me state furthermore that this is a global problem. Russia is not the only country in the world that has this problem by a long shot. And if you read this document,

it is clear that the document will only have meaning if we act on it, but the unusual thing about this document compared with past ones is that this is, as far as I know, the first time that these eight nations have agreed together to do very specific things to try to control the trafficking in nuclear materials, which is something we're all very concerned about. And given the rise of terrorist networks and the interconnections through computer technology in the world, it is all the more important.

But this situation with regard to Russia is better than it was a year ago. There are still funds that can be drawn down. And as specific things come up, if we can't fund them, I think that we'll be able to find the funds available. I am not worried about the money on this aspect of this large issue that we've been talking about.

Go ahead, Terry [Terence Hunt, Associated Press], you're next.

#### ***Iran***

**Q.** Mr. President, after the Summit on Nuclear Safety, President Yeltsin said that Russia is going to go ahead with its sale of nuclear technology to Iran, a state that you consider a terrorist nation. Do you still consider this sale a bad idea, and does it undercut this whole summit?

**The President.** No. Yes, it's a bad idea; no, it does not undercut the summit. I think it's a bad idea because we're against any nuclear cooperation with Iran for one simple reason: We believe they're trying to develop a nuclear program, notwithstanding what they may say to the contrary.

The defense that Russia has made is that they're simply giving them the technology that we propose to provide to North Korea. The difference is, we are moving North Korea down on the scale of nuclear capacity in a cooperative effort that, so far, North Korea has fully kept its word on. We are moving down, and we are dismantling a nuclear threat.

In the case of Iran, they are moving up in their nuclear capacity even though what Russia proposes to transfer itself cannot be used to develop a nuclear weapon. And we just don't believe that there should be any

nuclear cooperation with a country who's trying to develop a nuclear program.

We don't need any more states with nuclear capacity in this world to make weapons. We don't need that. So that's our position. Wolf [Wolf Blitzer, CNN].

### **Judicial Appointments**

**Q.** Mr. President, while you've been here, Senate majority leader Bob Dole delivered a major speech in Washington criticizing your record on fighting crime and your record in appointing what he describes as "liberal judges." I wonder if you'd care to respond to Senator Dole.

**The President.** Well, I will respond at greater length after I get home. I do not—since I do not believe—I like the old-fashioned position that used to prevail that people didn't attack the President when he was on a foreign mission for the good of the country. It has been abandoned with regularity in the last 3½ years, but I don't think that makes it any worse a rule.

I will just say this: Senator Dole voted for 98 percent of the judges that I appointed, and the rating systems for judges, going back to the Eisenhower administration by the American Bar Association, indicate that I have appointed the best qualified judges of any President since Mr. Eisenhower was in this job.

And my record on the crime issue is quite clear, and I'll have a chance to reaffirm it next week when I get back and we sign the antiterrorism bill.

Brit [Brit Hume, ABC].

### **Middle East and Irish Peace Process**

**Q.** Mr. President, events from Lebanon to London—there have been setbacks for the peace efforts in which you have invested yourself and your prestige. I wonder if you may now feel that settlements you might have thought were almost within your grasp are now slipping away from you?

**The President.** Well, if these peace efforts were easy, they would have been concluded a long time ago. And I never expected the road to be completely straight. I will say this: I had a good talk with Prime Minister Major today about the Irish peace process. The United States supports all-party talks and

supports the elections that the Irish and British Governments have proposed as a vehicle to get to them. We strongly believe, I personally strongly believe that the cease-fire should be reinstituted. I believe that's what the overwhelming majority of the people of Northern Ireland of both traditions want. And we'll keep working toward that end. I think we've got a chance to see that process succeed.

With regard to Lebanon, I had a long talk with Secretary Christopher this afternoon. He is in Syria now; he will see President Asad this evening. He will also have contact with the other foreign ministers that are there. And we're going to do the best we can to get this back on track. We have got to get the cease-fire. And we need to restore something like what existed in 1993, before it was broken a few days ago.

### **Middle East Peace Process**

**Q.** Mr. President, to follow up on that, a few hours ago, I guess it was, President Chirac was very optimistic about the prospects for a cease-fire, saying he thought that it was possible that could happen today or tomorrow. Do you share that optimism, first of all? And secondly, do you think that there is any life left at all in the overall peace process after what has been happening over the past 10 days?

**The President.** Oh, yes. I don't think if—I think what happened in the past 10 days happened because there is life in the peace process. I think the resumption of the rocket—the Katyusha rockets, was a direct attempt to drive a stake through the peace process, through the heart of the peace process. I don't think this is very complicated.

I think Hezbollah did what they did, and I think they have probably been very pleased in a tragic way that the Israeli reaction included the misfiring of certain shells that killed all those civilians because that's what they want to do. They want to kill the peace process. And I think the fact that they want to kill it shows that there is still life in it. And so I do believe that. This is a difficult period.

Now, in terms of—President Chirac and I talked about this extensively today, and as

I said, the Secretary of State will have contact with the two European foreign ministers and the Russian foreign minister who are in Syria. He will then see President Asad, and he will then—I expect that he will probably go back to Jerusalem tonight, sometime late tonight.

But I have found that predictions are not particularly useful, so I don't want to voice optimism or pessimism. I do want to say that there are two things we have to do here: We have got to get a—we have got to stop the violence, but we also have to get some sort of understanding that will enable the people of Lebanon and the people who live in the northern part of Israel to go back to a normal life.

And my heart really goes out to them. The people who live in southern Lebanon are basically caught in a political web that is far beyond their ability to control. And so I hope to goodness we can give them back the elements of their life, so they at least have the security of peace in the next—for the indeterminate period. But if we can do that, I think the peace process can be put back on track.

Yes, Rita [Rita Braver, CBS]?

### **Russia and Iran**

**Q.** I wanted to go back to the question that Terry asked you earlier. You said that you didn't think that Russia's cooperation with Iran on sharing of nuclear technology undercut what happened here today. And then you seemed to lay out all of the problems that that would lead to.

**The President.** No, what I mean—

**Q.** I wasn't quite finished. I wanted to ask if you didn't think that that might also lead to some skepticism about the entire relationship between the United States and Boris Yeltsin when he seems to persist in doing something that seems so clearly against the interest of not only the United States, but the rest of the world as you see it.

**The President.** No, because on balance, we've gotten a lot more progress out of this nuclear relationship with the Russians than this one setback would indicate, number one. And number two, he didn't say one thing and do another here. I mean, he publicly said what they were going to do, so there's no

evidence of dishonesty on the part of the Russian position whatever.

I just think they're wrong. But if you compare that action, which I disagree with, with Yeltsin's detargeting the missiles, with putting START I into effect, with his support for START II, with his willingness to accelerate further our reduction and mutual efforts to reduce the nuclear threat, with the support that he's given us for the indefinite extension of the NPT, with the work that they have done with us to increase the security of nuclear materials in the last year—when you add up all the things that have been done and the things that Russia has committed to do in this treaty going forward, including supporting the zero yield comprehensive test ban, supporting the effort to end ocean dumping, supporting the convention on radioactive waste management, the answer is, this one thing that I strongly disagree with does not come close to outweighing the benefits that we've gotten out of this relationship.

As I said, there are—Russia is not the only country that believes that they're just giving Iran the same technology that we've already approved for North Korea in terms of generating nuclear power. The difference is we're bringing North Korea down; they will bring Iran up by some marginal capacity to deal with and understand nuclear technology and continue to build toward nuclear capacity. And, we believe, notwithstanding what they say to the contrary, that they want to have the ability to produce weapons. So we think it's a very serious thing.

### **Russian Elections**

**Q.** Mr. President, I know you don't like to comment on the Russian Presidential elections other than to say that the U.S. supports those who are in favor of democratic reform, but based on that policy, I wonder if you could explain your thinking and rationale for meeting tomorrow with the leading Communist candidate at a reception.

**The President.** Well, yes. First of all, the last time I was here I met with a representative group of political leaders across all the parties and had a joint discussion—I didn't have any individual bilaterals—because Russia is essentially a multiparty state. And so, I'm going to do that again tomorrow. But



that's not inconsistent with our position that in democracies, we believe the people have to make their own decisions, and we will honor the decisions that they make.

In the countries that have essentially two-party systems, when I go to a country I virtually always meet with the leader of the opposition. And that's not just my policy; that's been the policy of the American President over a long period of time.

So anybody who is playing by the rules here, the democratic rules, participating in the democratic system, is entitled to do it under the Russian Constitution, and I'm going to meet tomorrow with—the Ambassador invited a number of people here from the different political parties, and I'm still not sure who is coming and who is not. But I will meet with those who come and let them say whatever they want to say, and I'll ask them a few questions.

**Q.** Do you consider that a way of keeping the door open?

**The President.** Absolutely not. It's not opening a door or closing a door, it should be—there is no significance to that in terms of this election process in Russia. This is something I do everywhere. When I go to other countries and I meet with the heads of government, when there is one clear head of an opposition, I meet with the opposition. In this case, Russia is an emerging democracy with a lot of different parties.

The last time I was here, I had a good talk with eight or 10 different leaders from around Russia, including leaders of other parties in the Duma and a couple of governors, heads of other provinces, or oblasts. And so that's what I do, and I'm going to do it again tomorrow.

George [George Condon, Copley News Service]?

**Q.** Mr. President, have the Russian economic and political reforms reached a point where they are essentially irreversible, or are they sufficiently fragile that the election of the wrong person here would bring us back to an adversarial state, or even a resumption of some modified form of the cold war?

**The President.** I believe that when you—what did Nelson Mandela say—the most important—one that Nelson Mandela says—the most important election is the next election,

or—no, Aristide said that the most important election, when a country becomes a democracy, is the second election.

What I believe is that the Russians have established a pretty vigorous democratic system already. And if they have another Presidential election that's a free and fair election with a significant amount of participation by the voters, I think every time you do that, it makes the path of democracy stronger and a reversal less likely.

There is clearly more room for differences of policy on economic and on foreign affairs matters, but I believe that the growth of free enterprise in Russia and the beginnings of people, ordinary people feeling the economic benefits of it, plus the need that any great country has today for attracting capital from around the world through the international financial institutions and through private investments, are going to be at least strong incentives to maintain at some pace a direction toward economic as well as political reform.

You know, no one knows—no one can predict the future, but I think on balance, the Russian people have been about the business of defining their greatness as they look to the future and not to the past. And if their greatness lies in freedom of expression of their people and of their accomplishments rather than their ability to either dominate others or have themselves dominated by a strong central, autocratic state, that whatever election results come out, the future will probably be all right.

But this country just kind of got started on this a few years ago, so I don't know that any of us know the future. I can just say that the United States supports the democratic movement in Russia and we support economic reform, and we believe the country has enormous talent and enormous resources, and if it can get through this difficult period of transition with forward-looking leadership, that it will be a prosperous, strong, invaluable member of the world community in the future. And it all depends upon how the Russian people, ultimately, through their democracy, decide to define their greatness.

**Q.** Mr. President, that answer could let some people believe that you don't think there's really that much difference between

the reelection of Boris Yeltsin and the election of Gennady Zyuganov. That isn't what you believe, is it?

**The President.** I believe that that's the story you want to write, one way or the other. [Laughter.] And the right, the correct position for the United States is not to become involved in any direct way.

I have had a good relationship with President Yeltsin. He has done a lot of good things in terms of removing the nuclear threat from the world and in terms of increasing the security of the Russian people, the American people, and others who are affected by it. And we have worked together to get international financial institutions to support Russia's economic transition because it's been a very difficult thing. And everyone knows of that relationship.

But it is not right for the United States or for any other country to tell people how they should vote. That's what democracy is about. How would you like it and how would you be affected by it if leaders of all the other countries in the world showed up in the United States between now and November and said vote for President Clinton or vote for Senator Dole? Most Americans would say, "Well, I hope we'll be friends when this is over, but I don't much care who you think I should vote for. I believe I'm smart enough to make that decision for myself."

That's the only point I'm making. You should read nothing into this one way or the other except the fact that the United States and Russia, in my view, have a big obligation to their people to continue to be allies, to have a constructive relationship, to resolve as many of their differences as possible and to move forward together into the future.

Our soldiers are side by side with IFOR in Bosnia today. We have done a lot of things together. And my specific belief is that neither the President of the United States nor anyone else has any business telling the citizens of Russia in any kind of explicit way how they should vote. Yes, there will be consequences to the votes they cast, and they will be able to sort out those consequences. And sometimes voters are right about what the consequences are of their votes, and sometimes they're not. And that's not only

true in Russia; that's true in the United States and lots of other places.

But our business is to support a certain direction, to reaffirm our own values, our own interests and the terms on which we want to engage Russia in partnership. That's our business here. The business of the Russian people is to be good citizens in a new democracy and become well-informed and make up their own mind and go and vote and chart their own destiny. And that's what they're going to do.

### **Criticism From Home**

**Q.** Mr. President, at any of the tables that you've been sitting at in your three stops this week, have you felt undercut as a leader because of the criticism from home, the political criticism from home?

**The President.** No. Not at all.

### **Assistance to Russia**

**Q.** Mr. President, I represent one of the newspapers, and we see all around us, in Moscow even, children starving, some of them dying. What are we going to do? How can you help us? We hear that there is assistance coming from the United States to help our children. Where is this assistance going? We don't see it. It's disappearing. Can you tell us anything about what we can do? Help us work our way through this thing. But we see the money just disappearing. Please.

**The President.** First of all, most of the direct aid that the United States has given to Russia has been in the area of dealing with the aftermath of the cold war. And we put a lot of resources into helping bring down the nuclear threat so that Russia would be able to find other resources to deal with the human problems of the people.

Secondly, we have recently worked very hard to qualify Russia for very large sums of funds through the international financial institutions, which should be beginning to flow now.

Thirdly, we are working on what specific things we can do in addition to that to, both on our own and through international cooperation with other countries, to deal with some of the most urgent humanitarian problems. Just yesterday, for example, when I was in St. Petersburg, I had a conversation about

what we could do to help to get more humanitarian aid to benefit the Russian children in some specific areas of problems that have been outlined.

So I know this is frustrating to you because the economy collapsed so much and it's not totally recovered. But I believe that the economy is getting better and that, because of that, more aid will be able to flow now. And I think that if you can stay on the course of reform, I believe that there will be marked improvements in the next couple of years. That's what I believe.

But I also think, as a practical matter, that I and other world leaders who want to support Russia need to examine much more spe-

cifically some of the humanitarian problems that we could alleviate at what is a relatively small cost to ourselves with a huge benefit to the people of Russia.

Peter, do you want to translate that? Did you understand? Can you hear me? Peter, are you going to say that in Russian, or not? Do we need to do that? Oh, it's simultaneous.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President's 125th news conference began at 7:07 p.m. in the Radisson Slavjanskaya Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine; Prime Minister John Major of the United Kingdom; President Jacques Chirac of France; President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria, and President Nelson Mandela of South Africa.